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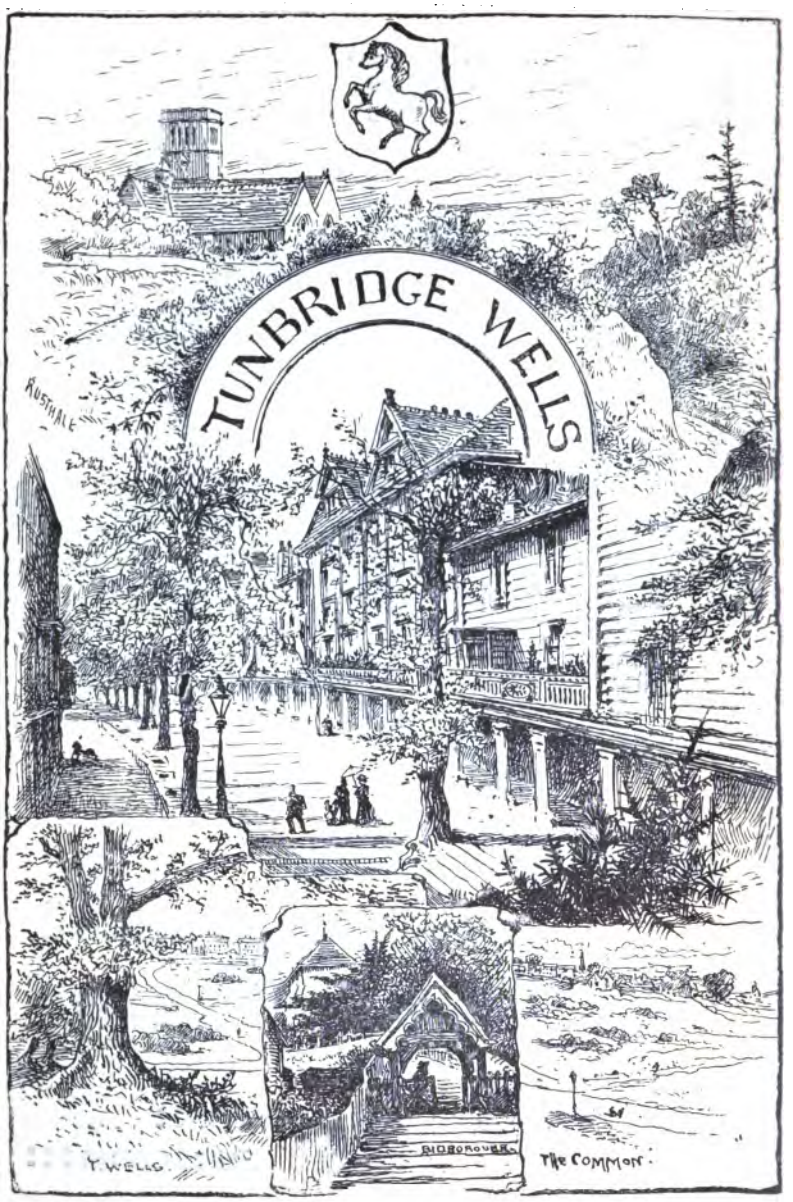
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MOUNT EDGECUMBE ROCKS.



TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

CHRONICLES OF THE TOWN.

OUR older watering-places are almost all inland. The practice of sea-bathing, which is now so general, was only introduced in England during the latter half of the last century. Accordingly, we find that the fashionable sea-bathing towns and villages, which now abound on our whole coast line, are, as places of popular resort, of very modern origin. But Bath, Wells, Bristol, Buxton, and Knaresborough, are watering-places of ancient date—some of them having, in fact, been used during the Roman occupation of this island. We are familiar

with bath life at Buxton and at "the Bath," as it was during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Some of the inland watering-places are more modern; Harrogate, Cheltenham, and Leamington, all came into notice and favour during the eighteenth century. In all these places there are warm or medicinal springs; bathing and drinking the waters are the two methods of restoring health which they offer to the invalid.

Of these inland watering-places, the most famous—with the single exception of Bath—is, and long has been, Tunbridge Wells. Bathing has never here been the chief attraction, though there have always been baths, of one kind or another, provided for the use of visitors. But the chalybeate springs, known as Tunbridge Wells, have from the first enjoyed a high reputation, and have never failed to attract to the neighbourhood, with every returning summer, a large influx of visitors in search of health, society, or amusement.

Until the seventeenth century, what is now the Town of Tunbridge Wells was waste and barren moorland. It was the discovery of the chalybeate springs that changed an uninhabited wilderness, first into the resort of the invalid or the pleasure seeker, and latterly into the favoured and well cared-for residence of the opulent and the leisured. The discoverer, who may be said to have laid the foundations of the fortunes of Tunbridge Wells, was Dudley, Lord North, a gay and dissolute young nobleman of the Court of James I. Dissipation having seriously injured his health, the young courtier retired to the salutary seclusion of Eridge House, the seat of Lord Abergavenny. Here he passed a portion of the summer of the year 1606, and either on his return to Town, or during his wanderings, accidentally noticed in a wooded hollow a stream of running water of peculiar appearance, with a shining mineral scum upon its surface, and an ochreous substance deposited at

the bottom. It occurred to Lord North that possibly this water might possess medicinal virtues which would render it serviceable to himself in his debilitated state. London physicians were consulted, who agreed that a valuable discovery had been made, and who encouraged the young nobleman to test by his own experience the efficacy of the newly-found chalybeate spring. Accordingly, in the following summer, Lord North returned to Eridge, drank the waters, and was rewarded by the complete restoration to vigorous health of what had appeared to be a shattered constitution. In a rare work, entitled, "A Forest promiscuous of several seasons' production," printed in 1637, he thus claims for himself the credit of bringing Tunbridge Wells into notice: —"The use of Tunbridge and Epsom waters "for health and cure, I first made known to London and the "King's people: the Spaw (*i.e.*, Spa, the well-known Belgian "watering-place) is a chargeable and inconvenient journey to "sick bodies, besides the money it carries out of the kingdom, "and inconvenience to religion. Much more I could say, but "I rather hint than handle—rather open a door to a large "prospect than give it." What reason the first discoverer of the springs had for gratitude is apparent from the fact that he survived until the 6th of January, 1666, when he died at the advanced age of eighty-five.

In Fuller's posthumous work, "The Worthies of England," originally published in 1662, the discovery of "Tunbridge Water" is somewhat differently related:—"It is usual for "Providence, when intending a benefit to mankind, to send "some signal chance on the errand, to bring the first tidings "thereof; most visible in the news of medicinal waters. The "first discovery of this water (though variously reported) is "believed from a footman to a Dutch lord, who passed this "way, and drinking thereof found it in taste very like to that

"of the Spa in Germany. Indeed there is a great symbolizing "between them in many other concurrencies; and I believe it "is as sovereign as the other, save that it is true of things as "of persons: '*Major e longinquo reverentia.*' Surely it runneth "through some iron-mine, because so good for splenetic "distempers. But I leave the full relation to such who, having "experimentally found the virtue of it, can put their seal of "*probatum est* unto the commendation thereof."

Lord Abergavenny took a warm interest in the newly discovered springs on the borders of his estate, and with the consent of Mr. Weller, then lord of the manor, cleared the surrounding ground; and having, with the assistance of "an eminent naturalist" from London, distinguished the two principal of seven distinct springs, ordered wells to be sunk over these, a stone pavement to be laid round, and the whole to be enclosed with wooden rails arranged in a triangular form.

The repute which Tunbridge Wells had gained early in the seventeenth century will be made manifest by two extracts from the correspondence of Sir John Chamberlain, a courtier of James I. In a letter dated "London, August 23rd, 1619," he writes:—"We have great noise here of a new spa or spring of "this nature, found lately about Wanstead [Essex], and much "running there is to it daily by both lords and ladies and other "great company, so that they have almost drawn it dry already; "and if it should hold on, it would put down the waters at "Tunbridge, which for these three or four years have been "much frequented, especially this summer, by many great "persons, insomuch that they which have seen both, say it is "not inferior to the Spa for good company, numbers of people, "and other appurtenances."

A few years later (August 21st, 1624), Sir John Chamberlain communicates to his friend that—"The Lord North's second

"daughter died at Tunbridge Wells, whither she went with her "mother, but before she had tasted of the waters, which with "divers others are come of late into great request."—The above letter is curious, as showing at how early a date in the history of this place it received the name of Tunbridge Wells.

Visitors to the Wells, in those early times, found no suitable accommodation provided for them in the immediate neighbourhood. They usually lodged at the town of Tunbridge—six miles distant—from which circumstance the Springs received the name of Tunbridge Wells. Rising in the parish of Speldhurst, they might appropriately have been called after that place; whilst they were designated Frant Wells by Kilburne in his "Survey of Kent." The name, however, now borne by the Chalybeate Springs, and by the town which has grown up around them, was definitely fixed in the course of the seventeenth century.

The first great event in the history of the place was the visit of Henrietta Maria, consort of Charles I., which took place in the year 1630. During her sojourn of six weeks, undertaken with a view to the re-establishment of her health after the birth of Prince Charles, she and her suite dwelt in tents pitched upon Bishop's Down Common. Tradition records that during this rustic visit the Queen was entertained by masques and pageants, as well as by dancing, all on a magnificent and regal scale. On the same authority, it has been believed that in one of her rambles into Frant Forest the Queen rested on a bank, by which she caused a stone to be placed as a memorial of her visit to the spot, and that a Latin inscription was graved upon this simple monument. A century later, an ale-house on the road to Frant was known as the "Queen's Stone."

The first buildings that were erected in the vicinity of the Wells, were two cottages which were provided for the rest and

refreshment of the company, and were known as the Ladies' and the Gentlemen's Coffee-houses. The latter indeed was commonly called the "Pipe-house," because there the gentlemen met, after having drunk their allowance of water, to smoke a pipe together as they sipped their coffee, and read the news, or chatted upon the events of the day.

The famous Tunbridge Walks were formed in the year 1638, when a green bank, in the neighbourhood of the springs, was raised and levelled, and planted with a double rows of trees. Here, in the "upper walk," during the intervals of their potations, the gay company used to walk beneath the spreading shady foliage,* where the tradesmen who frequented the place during the summer season displayed their various wares for sale.

In the years immediately following, houses were built for the accommodation of visitors, nearer the Wells, particularly at Southborough and Rusthall. During the middle of the century, when party feeling in England, both in politics and in religion, ran to a great height, Southborough became the chosen resort of the Royalists, and Rusthall of the Roundheads. The Presbyterians desired to erect a meeting-house at the latter hamlet, but so strong was the prejudice against them, that the landlord refused to sell them a foot of land for the purpose at any price. It was about the time of the Restoration that an assembly room, a bowling green, and other places, were provided for public diversion at Rusthall,† and at Southborough a bowling green and coffee-house.

* "Hos inter calices, per amoenas arboris umbras
Hinc illinc patulos jactantis in aëra crines
Usque vagor, possim ut gelidos tolerare liquores."
"Ima valle jacet prope Fontem longa patenti
Arbore planities circumdata, maxima qua pars
Potantum (dum plectra movent, lymphas que ministrant)
Nunc huc, nunc illuc repetitis passibus errant."—*Causton.*

† The Rusthall bowling green is thus oddly described by Causton:—
"Est locus in summo Rusthalli vertice montis
Aggere vallatus quadro, quem cespite nulto
Undique congesto planum fecere coloni."

In June, 1652, John Evelyn, as he records in his well-known diary, on his way from Rye, brought his wife and her mother to Tunbridge Wells. "My wife," says he, "being discomposed "by having been so long at sea, we set not forth towards home "till the 14th, when hearing that the small-pox was very rife in "and about London, and Lady Browne having a desire to drink "Tunbridge Waters, I carried them thither and stayed in a very "sweet place, private and refreshing, and took the waters myself "till the 23rd, when I went to prepare for their reception, "leaving them for the present in their little cottage by the "Wells." On his journey to London, Evelyn was robbed within three miles of Bromley, by "two cut-throats," whom he naturally brands as "rogues" and "villains." The passage is worth reading as a whole.*—He "returned to Tunbridge on "the 29th, and again drank the water, till the 10th of July." Two or three entries will show that the excursions made from Tunbridge Wells two centuries ago were very much the same as those in vogue to-day. "We went to see the house of my "Lord Clanrickarde at Summer Hill near Tunbridge (now given "to that villain, Bradshawe, who condemned the King). 'Tis "situated on an eminent hill, with a park, but has nothing else "extraordinary. 4th July.—I heard a sermon at Mr. Packer's "chapel at Groombridge, a pretty melancholy seat, well wooded "and watered. . . . . 9th.—We went to see Penshurst, the "Earl of Leicester's, famous once for its gardens and excellent "fruit—and for the noble conversation which was wont to meet "there, celebrated by that illustrious person, Sir Philip Sydney, "who there composed divers of his pieces. It stands in a park, "was finely watered, and was now full of company, on the "marriage of my old fellow-collegiate, Mr. Robert Smith, who "married my Lady Dorothy Sydney, widow of the Earl of

* Diary of John Evelyn, vol. I., p. 292.

"Sunderland." Several years afterwards, in August, 1661, Evelyn again visited Tunbridge Wells, and made the following entry in his diary, probably referring to what are now known as the High Rocks:—"Walking about the solitudes, I greatly "admired the extravagant turnings, insinuations, and growth of "certain birch trees among the rocks."

After the restoration of the Monarchy, Tunbridge Wells rapidly grew in favour, and became every summer the resort of multitudes who were in search of health or pleasure. Many changes now took place in the arrangements for the accommodation and amusement of the visitors. The Assembly Room, hitherto fixed at Rusthall, was transferred to Mount Ephraim, to the house known as Mount Ephraim House. On this newly-favoured hill a bowling green was enclosed, a tavern called "The Castle" was opened, and many lodging-houses were erected. Fickle fashion, however, soon removed her head-quarters from Mount Ephraim to Mount Sion, which had the advantage of proximity to the Mineral Wells. Disputes between the Lord of the Manor and the tenants tended to favour the desertion of Bishop's Down for the opposite height. The indispensable ball room, bowling green, and lodging-houses being now provided, visitors came to prefer Mount Sion—which for a century and more remained the favourite locality.

A curious fact in connection with the frequent changes, which in these early times took place in the residence of the visitors, is the facility with which the dwelling-houses seem to have been removed from one site to another. When Southborough fell out of vogue, the houses which had been erected there were pulled down and rebuilt at Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells. But many of the cottages which dotted the outskirts of the Common must have been built of wood, and upon a platform rather than upon foundations, for the oldest chronicler of the

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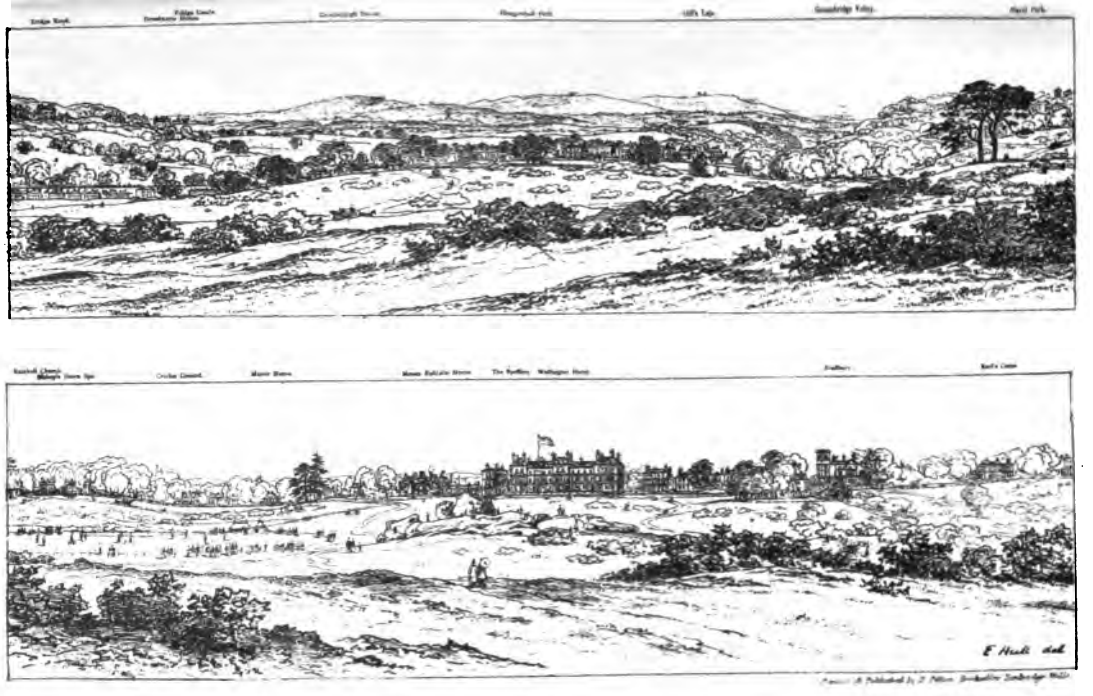
PANORAMA OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

1



2





ENLARGED COPIES OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PEN AND INK SKETCH OF THE VIEWS SEEN FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON, MAY BE HAD OF THE PUBLISHER, PRICE SIXPENCE EACH.

place relates that some houses, whole and entire as they were, were wheeled on sledges to be fixed in more favoured situations, and mentions especially that "Camfield's shop, adjoining to the "chapel, was in this manner brought down from Mount Ephraim, "with the band of music playing in it, and a jovial company "drinking success to the purchaser."

In the summer of 1664, King Charles II., with his Queen, Catharine of Braganza, visited Tunbridge Wells, and the gay Court found the place, with its natural beauty and rusticity, and its free unfettered amusements, very much to their taste, and by their long and agreeable sojourn brought the already popular watering-place still more into celebrity and fashion.

In a review of the favourite watering-places of England at the period intervening between the Restoration and the Revolution of 1688, the brilliant historian of England, Lord Macaulay, thus alludes to the Tunbridge Wells of that era :—

"Tunbridge Wells, lying within a day's journey of the capital, "and in one of the richest and most highly-civilized parts of the "kingdom, had much greater attractions (than Buxton). At "present we see a town which would, a hundred and sixty years "ago, have ranked in population fourth or fifth among the "towns of England. The brilliancy of the shops and the luxury "of the private dwellings far surpass anything that England "could then show. When the Court, soon after the Restoration, "visited Tunbridge Wells, there was no town ; but, within a "mile of the spring, rustic cottages, somewhat cleaner and "neater than the ordinary cottages of that time, were scattered "over the heath. Some of these cabins were moveable, and "were carried on sledges from one part of the Common to the "other. To these huts men of fashion, wearied with the din "and smoke of London, sometimes came in the summer to "breathe fresh air, and to catch a glimpse of rural life. During

"the season a kind of fair was daily held near the fountain. "The wives and daughters of the Kentish farmers came from "the neighbouring villages with cream, cherries, wheat-ears, and "quails. To chaffer with them, to flirt with them, to praise "their straw hats and tight heels, was a refreshing pastime to "voluptuaries sick of the airs of actresses and maids of honour. "Milliners, toy-men, and jewellers came down from London, "and opened a bazaar under the trees. In one booth the "politician might find his coffee and the *London Gazette;* in "another were gamblers playing deep at basset; and on fine "evenings the fiddlers were in attendance, and there were "morris dances on the elastic turf of the bowling green."

That the chief source of this striking and picturesque description may be laid before the eyes of our readers, we subjoin a translation of a page of the Count de Grammont's Memoirs, 1664.

"The Court set out a month after, to pass nearly two months "in the most simple and rustic, but at the same time the most "agreeable and entertaining, place in all Europe.

"Tunbridge (Tunnebrige) is at the same distance from "London as Fontainebleau is from Paris. All the handsome "and gallant of both sexes meet here in the season for drinking "the waters. The company is always numerous and always "select: and as those who seek only to amuse themselves are "always numerically in the ascendancy over those who resort "thither only from necessity, everything breathes pleasure and "joy.

"The visitors lodge in little dwellings, clean and convenient, "separated from one another, and scattered everywhere within "half-a-league of the Wells. In the morning they assemble at "the spot where the springs are situated. There is a fine "avenue of shady trees, beneath which the visitors walk while

"they drink the waters. On one side of this avenue stretches "a long row of shops, furnished with all sorts of elegant trifles, "lace, stockings, and gloves, where you may amuse yourself as "at the fair.* On the other side of the avenue the market is "held; and as every one goes there to choose and buy his own "provisions, you see nothing exposed for sale which could "occasion disgust. Here are young countrywomen, fair and "fresh-looking, with white linen, little straw hats, and neat shoes "and stockings, who sell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit. "You may here enjoy as good living as you wish. There is "playing for high stakes, and love-making in abundance. When "evening comes, every one quits his little palace to assemble "on the bowling green (Boulin grin). There in the open air "there is dancing for those who like it, upon a turf smoother "than the finest carpet in the world."

There is still extant, in the British Museum Library, a warrant dated 19th March, 1669, providing for the erection of tents at Tunbridge Wells for the entertainment of the Queen. The terms are as follows:—"These are to require you forthwith to "provide and make ready .... Tenne Tents, besides what are "at Tunbridge already, for her Majesty's service."

The Wells themselves, although they had been repaired twenty years before, were still in a primitive and rustic state. But in 1664, Lord Muskerry, of Summer Hill, then Lord of the Manor, caused the wooden rails to be removed, and a strong stone wall to be placed in their stead. He "renewed the stone "pavement within the wall, placed a handsome basin over the "main spring for the better reception of the water, and raised "a convenient hall to shelter the dippers from the weather."

There may be seen in the British Museum† a contemporary drawing of the elevation, and a ground plan of the enclosure.

* *La Foire—i.e.*, probably of St. Germains. † Additional MSS. 5233, f. 52.

The design of the front is somewhat tawdry; over the gateway is a shield of arms, over that the initials C.M. and the date 1664, whilst a dome surmounts the whole. The central part of the front is connected by fan-shaped work with the wall, which is flanked by turrets and pinnacles.

Much earlier than this the Wells had been enclosed, and the importance of maintaining and protecting them from encroachment had been fully recognised, as will be seen by the following extract from the House of Lords' MSS., page 84, dated 16th May, 1660:

"PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF BIDBOROUGH, SOUTHBORNE, (? SOUTHBORO') AND RUSTHALL, IN KENT, AND OTHER PLACES THEREABOUTS.—The Wells called Tunbridge Wells have been much frequented for fifty years and upwards by many of the nobility, gentry and others, who have found much benefit by drinking the waters; and the petitioners and many hundreds of poor people have gained a good livelihood thereby, and it hath been always free for the poor women to dip and give the waters without restraint, and great charge was bestowed by noble persons to get a marble cistern in the well, and to pave it and rail it round: but John Wybarne, a saddler, for by ends to himself hath lately digged up the cistern and paving stones and carried them away, and hath cut down some of the birches set in a walk there for shadow by those that frequented the Wells, and doth threaten to cut down the rest, and to dig the rails about the Wells, and so fill them up, unless he may have the ordering and disposing of the water; though the same do stand in a highway at the end of a Common. Petitioners pray that Wybarne may be compelled to set the cistern and pavement as they were, and that all persons may have liberty to take the waters as heretofore, and without interruption; and if Wybarne neglect to obey, that petitioners may take the cistern and stones, and lay them as before."

"This matter is attended to in *Lords' Journals*, xi. 29."

It is somewhat strange that Samuel Pepys does not seem, as far as can be learned from the entries in his diary, to have visited Tunbridge Wells, though he frequently refers to the

place as a fashionable resort. Writing on 22nd July, 1663, he says, "To-morrow the King and Queen for certain go down "to Tunbridge; but the King comes back again against Monday "to raise the Parliament." And on the 27th, after the prorogation of Parliament, "They all went away, the King out of "the House at the upper end, he being by-and-by to go to "Tunbridge to the Queen." On the 22nd of July, 1666, he records:—"The Queen and Maids of Honour are at Tunbridge;" and on the 31st, "The Court empty, the King being gone to "Tunbridge." Everything indicates that the era of the Restoration was an epoch of fashion and prosperity for the rising watering-place.

About this time several new attractions sprang up for the entertainment of visitors to the Wells. A place called the Fish-ponds, north of Mount Ephraim, was opened for the amusement of the public, and for some time was a favourite place of resort with the company, but afterwards, through bad management, fell into disrepute, and was deserted. The erection of a house at the High Rocks is attributed to the admiration expressed for that romantic spot by the Duke of York (afterwards James II.), who, with his Duchess and two daughters, the Princesses Mary and Anne (who afterwards successively occupied the English throne), visited the Wells in 1670. At this time also the spring, situated between the High Rocks and Groombridge, known as Adam's Well, came into notice, and was reputed to be of wondrous efficacy in healing the disorders both of dogs and men.

Allusion has been made to the primitive nature of the accommodation for trades-people as well as visitors: in the prosperous era which followed the visits of King Charles II. and his brother, measures were taken to remedy these defects. About 1676 the Lord of the Manor entered into an agreement with his tenants by which he was enabled to build shops and



OLD VIEW OF WELLS AND BATH HOUSE.

houses upon the green bank, and in every convenient situation near the springs. A few years after, in 1687, a fire broke out which spread until it consumed the whole of these lately-erected buildings. The consequence, however, of this disaster, was the ultimate improvement and advantage of the place; "the "buildings being afterwards more regularly planned, and better "contrived, both for the convenience of the inhabitants, and "the ornament of the walks." The early historian, Benge Burr, writing in 1766, adds:—"upon which, since this accident, an "assembly room, coffee-houses, shops, and dwelling-houses,

"have been erected in one continued line, and a convenient "portico placed in front, and carried on from the upper end of "the Parade quite down to the Well."

Neither were the postal arrangements quite overlooked, the London Gazette, No. 2672, dated June 22nd, 1691, publishes an order which is as follows : —

"The season of drinking the Tunbridge Wells Waters being now at hand, these are to notifie, That the Post will during the said Season go constantly from the General Letter Office in London to Tunbridge, every night in the week except Sundays, and will in like manner return from thence as well on Sundays as every other day in the week, and in order thereunto, it will begin on Monday, the 22nd of this Instant."

A minute and detailed description of Tunbridge Wells and its amusements as they were towards the close of the seventeenth century is given in a curious volume entitled "Metellus: his Dialogues," published in 1693. From this metrical guide-book, we learn that the journey from London on horseback was thought a thing formidable to be done "in one hot day." We find that some visitors took up their abode in houses apparently as fragile as if constructed of cards, "as slight as if built only for one day:" but found that for the use of these gay but pasteboard edifices they had to pay as much for a week's tenancy as they would for a month's lodging in London. Whilst others were content to lodge in lowly cottages, where they were "fed on bacon and on coleworts," and drank from maple cups the "brisk, salutiferous, old woman's ale." And these latter were so far satisfied with their homely quarters that they could testify :—

"We all good beds and all clean linen had,
Though all things poor, yet nothing that was bad."

When the visitor of that day, rising betimes, "crossed the "wild but sweet and pleasant heath," and reached "that little

"place of so great fame, the walks and wells of Tunbridge," he was struck with the signs of growth and prosperity :—

> "Each way you come, some new-built houses stand,
> You'd think some little city were at hand,
> So placed, so pretty, that as you come down,
> They look like suburbs of some pleasant town."

He admired the rows of shady trees dividing the upper from the lower walk, was amused by the variety of wares and of provisions exposed for sale, and was especially struck by the charming "*rus in urbe:*"—

> "the buyer sees
> City in country, Cheapside among trees."

Here marketing and society were agreeably combined :—

> "The lady without wetting of her shoe
> May choose her dinner while her gallants woo:
> Appears more lovely in their low employ,
> Whilst th' amorous friend presents the welcome toy."

We say now, "The band plays on the Pantiles;" but our visitor of two centuries ago phrased it more poetically :—

> "Midst of the trees Apollo hath a quire!"

He condescends, however, to mention that these ministers of the "glorious Apollo" were propitiated for the season by the modest offering of half-a-crown. The motley company naturally struck with astonishment visitors to whom watering-place life was novel and unfamiliar: they observed with amusing amazement the varied classes mingling together in the pursuit of health and pleasure, the courtier, the citizen, the philosopher, the poet, the divine, and the ladies—not all of this latter class being of unsullied reputation. As for the waters themselves, Mars and Venus have to be brought forward to explain their supernatural efficacy. Of all cures recorded, and attributed to the virtues of the chalybeate, that of the student is most surprising :—

"The scholar struggling feels recovered brain,
Embellished fancy speaks strong lines again,
Thinks freely of all objects, fills with sense,
And uses his old, native eloquence!"

As the writer was "sometime gentleman-commoner of Christ Church, Oxford," it is scarcely surprising to find him, believing as he did in the beneficent effects of the chalybeate upon the brain, exclaiming with grateful rapture :—

"In this new Eden Nature must have meant
Adam's lost Paradise to represent."

We no longer wonder that "twice twenty Nymphs" were needed to hand to the thronging patients glasses filled with the sparkling tonic. And we sympathize with the visitor's regret that Tunbridge Wells should then have been unknown as a winter residence, and we admire the foresight of his conviction :—

"'tis like to grow;
Already future city's embryo!"

Tunbridge Wells being situated at the junction of three parishes—Speldhurst, Frant, and Tonbridge—stands at some distance from any parish church. There is reason to believe that of the three denominations of Protestant Dissenters, two, the Presbyterians and the Baptists, if not the Independents, had regular provision for Christian worship and teaching in the neighbourhood before the close of the seventeenth century ; but it is presumed that those of the visitors, who were members of the Established Church, attended on the Lord's-day one or other of the parish churches in the vicinity. But in 1676 a subscription was commenced to raise a fund for building an Episcopal Church. A suitable site was presented by the Viscountess Purbeck, then owner of Summer Hill, and by 1684 a chapel was erected. This, however, was soon found too small for the accommodation of the visitors, and was a few

years afterwards enlarged. This spacious edifice was dedicated to King Charles the Martyr, a distinction which it shares with only one other church in the kingdom, that situated at Plymouth, which was completed in 1658, but not consecrated till the Restoration, when it was dedicated to "Saint Charles the Martyr," but is known now simply as "Charles' Church."

Before her accession to the throne, the Princess Anne was a frequent visitor to Tunbridge Wells. She was here in the summer of that year of the Revolution when her father was compelled to abdicate. So much was the place supposed to have benefited by this royal patronage, that it has sometimes been said that what in later years George III. did for Weymouth, and George IV. for Brighton, that the Princess Anne of Denmark did for Tunbridge Wells. It is certain that she was extremely fond of the place, that she resided here for several successive seasons, and that she was its acknowledged patroness and very liberal benefactress. She gave in 1696, a basin to the spring, which long afterwards retained the name of the "Queen's Well." Two years afterwards, the last of her short-lived children, the Duke of Gloucester, having hurt himself by falling on the walks, she deposited the sum of £100 with one of the principal inhabitants with which to put the thoroughfares in proper condition. When Her Royal Highness again visited the place, she was so indignant on finding her commission unexecuted, that she withdrew her favour from the Wells, to which she resorted no more. The *amende* was made too late. The leading street or avenue adjoining the Springs was paved with square bricks or tiles, whence the familiar name, so long identified with the fashionable and literary associations of the Wells—the *Pantiles*. In 1793, nearly a century later, on the place being paved, by public subscription, with Purbeck stone, the *Parade* was the name substituted for the ancient one; but the authorities

have recently shown a wiser judgment, and have returned to the old and more distinctive appellation, the *Pantiles*. In 1702, when Anne became queen, the inhabitants planted upon the Common a triple row of birch trees, which they styled the "Queen's Grove," designing it for a growing "monument of gratitude to their royal and generous benefactress;" but their loyalty was unappreciated, for "she never smiled again" on her once loved retreat.

The opening years of the eighteenth century were distinguished also by other improvements. In 1703, Mount Sion Grove was put in trust for the recreation of the inhabitants and visitors. Five years afterwards, in 1708, the cold bath was constructed at Rusthall, and became at once a favourite summer resort.

The attractiveness of Tunbridge Wells, as a place of great beauty and salubrity, may be said to have been due to the lavish favour of Nature; but its prosperity, as a fashionable watering-place, has been largely owing to an Act of Parliament passed in the 13th year of George II. (1739). The circumstances which led to this act, and its main provisions, must be briefly related. "About the year 1726, the Lord of the "Manor's building lease expired, and as the tenants justly "imagined they had a right to some compensation for the loss "of the herbage that was covered by his houses, they claimed "a share in the buildings. This occasioned a tedious lawsuit "between the lord and his tenants, which, after a prodigious "expense, was finally determined in favour of the latter, who "were adjudged to have a just claim to a third part of the "buildings then erected on the estate, for their rights of herbage; "whereupon all the shops and houses on this estate were divided "into three equal lots, of which the tenants were to draw one, "and the other two were to remain with the lord; and, luckily

"for the tenants, they happened to draw the middle lot, which "included the Assembly Room on the walk, and has turned out "the best of the three." The lord and tenants then entered into an agreement, which was confirmed by the Act just cited. The important provisions of this Act are those which secure that the Wells, the Dippers' Hall, and Tunbridge Wells Walks, shall be for ever free to the public; and that no more buildings, shall be erected upon the Common land, except by joint consent of lord and tenants. The lord of the Manor was Maurice Conyers; and William, Lord Abergavenny, heads the list of freehold tenants. It was rightly foreseen that the Mineral Springs and the open Common would prove the two great and lasting attractions of Tunbridge Wells; and it was provided accordingly that they should be *secured in perpetuity* for the *free use* of the public.

Beau Nash, or Richard Nash, Esq., as he is denominated by his biographer, Goldsmith, who was born in 1674, and died in 1761, was, in the last century, a person of no little consideration. He was termed a "man who for more than fifty years presided over the pleasures of a polite kingdom." The service he rendered to the country is thus described:—"The pains he "took in pursuing pleasure, and the solemnity he assumed in "adjusting trifles, may one day claim the smile of posterity. . . "He was the first who diffused a desire of society and an "easiness of address among a whole people, who were formerly "censured by foreigners for a reservedness of behaviour, and "an awkward timidity in their first approaches. He first taught "a familiar intercourse among strangers at Bath and Tunbridge, "which still subsists among them. The ease and open access "first acquired there, our gentry brought back to the Metropolis, "and thus the whole kingdom by degrees became more refined "by lessons originally derived from him."

Nash was an adventurer, whose manners, dress, and (not least) his assurance, gave him a vast influence over the society that resorted to the fashionable watering-places. "His equipage "was sumptuous, and he usually travelled to Tunbridge in a "post chariot and six greys, with outriders, footmen, French "horns, and every other appendage of expensive parade." In order to support his extravangances, Nash had recourse to gaming. Where the wealthy and the idle assemble, there the sharper and the flatterer will certainly be found. As is still the case at Monaco, and as was the case until lately at the German watering-places, so during the last century at Tunbridge Wells, gambling was one of the chief attractions. Fairchance, Faro, and Ace of Hearts, were the appellations of the favourite games. When public gambling was put down by statute, various means were devised of evading the law. Even a second and more stringent statute was evaded. "This amendment of the law "soon gave birth to new evasions; the game of 'Rolly-Polly,' "'Marlborough's Battles,' but particularly the 'E.O.,' were set up; "and strange to observe, several of those very noblemen who had "given their voices to suppress gaming, were the most ready to "encourage it. This game was first set up at Tunbridge."* In the profits of these games, Nash had a large and stipulated share.

Nash became, about the year 1735, the first "King" or *Arbiter Elegantiarum* of Tunbridge Wells, an office which he had long sustained in the famous city and watering-place of Bath. This office existed for about a century, in the course of which the following reigned successively, but none with the *éclat* by which the sovereignty of Nash was distinguished:—Jones, Collett. Derrick, Blake, Tyson, Fotheringham, Amsinck, Tyson (second time), Roberts, Captain Merryweather, and Lieut. Madden, who, in 1836, resigned the post which he had filled for eleven years; when the office became extinct.

* Cobbett's "Life of Richard Nash."

The chief decree enforced by this despot of the *beau monde*, was that every visitor should live in public. "The lodging-"houses were merely places of accommodation for eating and "sleeping. The whole of the intermediate time of their tem-"porary inhabitants was spent on the Walks, in the Assembly "Rooms, in pleasurable excursions, or at chapel. . . . . Thus "every hour of the day had its allotted occupation; the whole "was regularly digested into system; and from the nobleman "of the first rank to the meanest visitor, all were compelled to "obey, and to yield to the established customs."† Nash did indeed owe to the air of Tunbridge Wells his own recovery to health, but under his *régime* it was considered chiefly as a place of amusement, gaiety and society. Partly by the use of reason and sarcasm, and partly by assumption and impudence, Nash removed many of the obstacles to social enjoyment. He banished riding-boots and swords, he discouraged private gaming-parties, he insisted upon early hours, and repressed flagrant immorality and vice. It should also be said, to his credit, that he was capable of generous and of charitable actions.

There appears, to the modern reader, much that is very characteristic and interesting in the life which was led at Tunbridge Wells in the middle of the eighteenth century. Let us attempt a sketch of an imaginary visit paid about that time to this fashionable watering-place.

The visitors come down from London in a post-chaise, or by a stage coach, and perform the journey in about seven hours.

The luggage is perhaps sent down by waggon, for the coach allows only 14lbs. of luggage. In 1767, flys performed the journey in five hours and a half, at a charge of half a guinea each passenger. Upon the road, perhaps at Sevenoaks, perhaps at Tunbridge, our visitors are met by the touters from the

† Amsinck.

Wells tradesmen. The butcher, the pastry-cook, the publican, are all eager to bespeak the custom of the new arrival.

"Soon as they set eyes on you, off flies the hat,
Does your honour want this? Does your honour want that"?*

Our travellers find rest and dine at the *Angel*, the *Gloucester* or the *Sussex*†—then the three inns of the place. Lodgings having been selected, and a night's rest having refreshed them after the fatigues of the journey, our visitors are saluted at early morning by a performance of music, welcoming them as new comers to the place; which civility they acknowledged by sending half-a-crown to the band that is playing outside their windows. In a suitable undress, the early risers stroll to the Walks, which already, between seven and eight o'clock, are crowded with company. Their first business is to taste the famous chalybeate waters, which they find pleasant enough, and for which they pay the fee, called the "welcome penny," to the Dippers, who hand the water in a glass. Turning to walk upon the Pantiles, they are greeted by a barber soliciting custom, or even by a physician, with bushy wig and gold-headed cane, who extols the waters, and offers his professional advice. After an hour's promenade, having inhaled the balmy atmosphere of the morning, our visitors return to breakfast at their lodgings, or (as now at Carlsbad and other German watering-places) take the morning meal upon the Walks, beneath the shade of the leafy trees, with a cheerful accompaniment of music. The middle Walk used by the company is divided from the others by white rails. But it remains for them to pay the several subscriptions which shall make them free of the various pleasures and conveniences of the place. A crown is paid by each visitor towards the maintenance of the Assembly Rooms; another crown by each gentleman at the coffee house, entitling to the use of

* Byrom, "A Description of Tunbridge."

† Now, alas! let as a place for warehousing furniture.

writing materials; another crown to the bookseller, whose circulating library is then at the visitor's service. Half-a-guinea is expected from each person by the musicians; and the clergyman's subscription book invites a contribution towards the maintenance of the offices of religion. *Fashion* prescribes attendance at morning prayer, during which the parade music is silent.

"You all go to church upon hearing the bell,
Whether out of devotion yourselves can best tell."—*Byrom.*

Some of the company have the good taste to canter away in mirthful parties over the breezy downs; others prefer idling in the cool shade of the stately limes; others again meet at the bookseller's to scribble the satire and the sentiment known as "Water-poetry," which circulates in manuscript, and which chiefly consists of praise or ridicule of well-known characters among the frequenters of the Wells; whilst many of the fair sex, with their admirers, stroll from shop to shop raffling for elegant superfluities, or purchasing the sundry decorations of dress, or specimens of Tunbridge Ware. Handsome figures, gay costumes, and lovely faces please the eye; whilst to an accompaniment of cheerful music, the merry laugh, the patriotic talk of politicians, fresh from the precincts of St. Stephen's, the loud voice of raillery, and the flattery of the gallant, make mixed, but not unpleasing melody to the ear. Among the "morning exercises" of visitors, it must be admitted that billiards, cards, cotillion dances, and private concerts, had a prominent and acknowledged place.

"At Baker's* the subscribers find
All sorts of physic for the mind;
And some there are upon the list
Who (of *your taste*) to morning whist
Clarissa, or *Sir Charles* prefer;
Others admire the conjurer,
Fond of deceits and cups and balls,
While King† reads lectures to the walls."

* The Bookseller.

† The Philosopher.



THE PANTILES IN 1748.

1 Doctor Johnson. 2 Bishop of Sallsbury—Dr. Gilbert. 3 Lord Harcourt. 4 Mr. Cibber—Colley. 5 Mr. Garrick. 6 Miss Trafi—The Singer. 7 Mr. Nash. 8 Miss Chudleigh—Duchess of Kingston. 9 Mr. Pitt—Earl of Chatham. 10 A. Onslow, Esq.—The Speaker. 11 Lord Powis. 12 Duchess of Norfolk. 13 Miss Peggy Banks. 14 Lady Lincoln. 15 Mr. Lightleton—afterwards Lord Lyttleton. 16 The Baron—A German Gamester. 17 Anonym—Mr. Richardson. 18 Mrs. Onslow. 19 Miss Onslow. 20 Mrs Johnson—The Dr.'s Wife. 21 Mr. Whiston. 22 Leoneo the Artist. 23 The Women of the Watch.



THE PANTILES FROM THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

It is after the mid-day dinner that the company appear in all their splendour. Tea drinking takes place in the afternoon, often in public, and of course at the expense of the bag-wigged gold-laced cavaliers, who bring to our Kentish retreat all the airs and the oaths of St. James's. The old guide-writer breaks forth into an ecstacy of admiration when he comes to dilate upon the splendour of the fashionable frequenters of Tunbridge Walks :—"And really the appearance of the company when "assembled together is quite beautiful and noble ; the day-time "moving along the parade like a walking parterre, and at night "in the Rooms like a galaxy of stars in a bright nocturnal sky."‡ Or as poetaster Byrom has it :—

"To the walks about seven you trace back your way,
Where the sun marches off and the ladies make day.
* * * * * * *
If with things here below we compare things on high,
The walks are like yonder bright path in the sky,
Where heavenly bodies in such clusters mingle,
'Tis impossible, Sir, to describe 'em all single."

That with all this gaiety there was mixed a large amount of vice, that many a man lost his fortune and many a woman her reputation at Tunbridge Wells, is apparent to every reader of the old plays and memoirs in which life at this fashionable watering-place is portrayed, as it existed from the Restoration, in 1660, until the latter part of the last century. What was the fashion of the Wells Society may be gathered from the following extract taken from an old comedy, most of which would be unfit for quotation :—"Good Mr. Loveworth, don't mention "marriage at Tunbridge ; 'tis as much laughed at as honesty "in the city ; this is a place of general address, all pleasure "and liberty ; and when we happen to see a married couple "dangle together like a knife and fork, they are a jest to the "whole Walks."

‡ The Rev. Mr. Oneley's "Guide."

It would not be fair, however, to overlook the recorded fact, that even when a sort of parade life in public (on the Walks and in the Assembly Room) was most in fashion, yet even in those artificial days, it was a daily practice for parties of pleasure to be formed for visiting the High Rocks, the Sussex Foundries, and the noblemen's and gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood. Horse races were also held, which a partial local historian, is however, candid enough to admit were "not so famous as those of Newmarket!"

It has been hinted that some of the visitors will look in at the bookseller's, and read the rhymes indited by the poetic among the water-drinkers. Water-poetry, as it was called, is conspicuous for its intense mediocrity. The most brilliant couplet with which the present writer has met, is the most indisputably just!

> "For those who Tunbridge poetry have read,
> Must think its streams impregnated with lead."

This witness is true: and applies from Waller downwards.

Every person who is familiar with the life and manners of the eighteenth century, knows that at Tunbridge Wells were wont to meet the scholars, actors, poets, and divines, as well as the beaux, the belles, the nobles, and the *roués* of the period. A well-known print* represents many of the distinguished characters of the middle of the last century as they probably appeared when promenading upon the ancient Parade, on such an occasion as when "all the good company on the Pantiles" came to stare at Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, "the woman who could talk Greek faster than any one in England."

To glance at all the eminent characters who have reflected a portion of their own fame on Tunbridge Wells, would far exceed our limits; suffice it to say, that Richardson the novelist,

* See page 30. Enlarged copies may be had of the Publisher of this Guide, 1s. each.

Dr. Johnson, Colley Cibber, Miss Chudleigh, afterwards Duchess of Kingston, Garrick, The Earl of Chatham, Gilbert, Bishop of Salisbury, Mrs. Thrale, afterwards Madame Piozzi, were to be met upon the pleasant promenade of our Pantiles, on a summer afternoon in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The reader will be pleased to be reminded, by the following extract, how Thackeray, in his "Virginians," pictures a few of the celebrated characters who resorted to the Kentish Spa :—

"The gentlemen now strolled out of the tavern garden into the "public walk, where, by this time, a great deal of company "was assembled. . . . There was, indeed, a great variety "of characters who passed. . . . Then came by my Lord "Chesterfield, in a pearl-coloured suit, with his blue ribbon and "star, and saluted the young men in his turn. 'I will back the "old boy for taking his hat off against the whole kingdom, and "France either,' says my Lord March. 'He has never changed "the shape of that hat of his for twenty years. Look at it; "there it goes again. Do you see that great, big, awkward, "pock-marked, snuff-coloured man, who hardly touches his "clumsy beaver in reply. His confounded impudence—do you "know who that is? It's one Johnson, a dictionary-maker, "about whom my Lord Chesterfield wrote some most capital "papers, when his dictionary was coming out, to patronise the "fellow. I know they were capital, I've heard Harry Walpole "say so, and he knows all about that kind of thing. Confound "the impudent schoolmaster! That fat man he's walking with "is another of your writing fellows—a printer—his name is "Richardson; he wrote "Clarissa," you know.' Harry ran "forward to look at the old gentleman toddling along the Walk "with a train of admiring ladies surrounding him. . . . He "made a low bow, and took off his hat to Mr. Warrington, who "shrank back with many blushes after saluting the great author.

"The great author was accustomed to be adored. A gentler "wind never puffed mortal vanity. Enraptured spinsters flung "tea leaves around him, and incensed him with the coffee pot. "Matrons kissed the slippers they had worked for him. There "was a halo of virtue round his night-cap. All Europe had "thrilled, panted, admired, trembled, wept, over the pages of "the immortal, little, kind, honest man with the round paunch. " . . . The dictionary-maker, who had shown so little desire "to bow to my Lord Chesterfield, when that famous nobleman "courteously saluted him, was here seen to take off his beaver "and bow almost to the ground, before a florid personage in "a large round hat, with bands and a gown, who made his "appearance in the Walk. This was my Lord Bishop of "Salisbury, wearing complacently the blue riband and badge of "the Garter, of which Noble Order his Lordship was prelate. "Mr. Johnson stood, hat in hand, during the whole time of the "conversation with Dr. Gilbert, who made many flattering and "benedictory remarks to Mr. Richardson, declaring that he was "the supporter of virtue, the preacher of sound morals, the "mainstay of religion, of all which points the honest printer "himself was perfectly convinced."

How are our visitors to spend the evening? This, like the earlier part of the day, is also passed in public. The two great Assembly Rooms, that on the Walks, and that on the Sussex side, which latter is not much frequented during the day, are open on alternate evenings. Cards, and "all sorts of lawful gaming" occupy many of the company, whilst others look on and watch the fortunes or the countenances of the players.

"But when to their gaming the ladies withdraw,
Those beauties are fled which when walking you saw;
Ungrateful the scene which you there see displayed,
Chance murdering those features which Heaven had made."

Twice in the week there are public balls, one at each of the two Assembly Rooms, where all classes meet without any distinction: the gentlemen paying half-a-crown, the ladies a shilling each. At six o'clock the ball is opened by a minuet, danced by the most distinguished persons present. These stately performances go on for nearly two hours, every gentleman being obliged by the regulations to dance with two ladies. At eight o'clock the country dances begin, and with a short interval for refreshment, the amusements proceed until eleven o'clock, when at a signal, the music ceases, and the company retire.

Or, perhaps, our visitors have met with friends of distinction who have arranged to give a private ball, and are invited to join a selecter circle, but in the same "great rooms," and to partake of the elegant supper which has been provided by the host.

Now and then is given a *matinée* or *soirée musicale*, at which London performers display their skill, and perhaps amateurs among the visitors take a part. This variety of amusement may be enjoyed for three-and-sixpence or a crown.

Or, a *masquerade* is given, when dresses are brought down from London, and a motley throng of visitors of all classes indulge in mirth and folly.

How fashionable and how well frequented were some of these evening assemblies may be judged from the fact (mentioned in a newspaper letter) that, on one occasion, after a gathering of the kind, no fewer than seventy-two coaches stood at the door.*

It was, however, possible to spend the evening agreeably in the open air. A visitor writing in 1762 says:—"There are fish

* The above sketch of life in Tunbridge Wells about the middle of the last century has been drawn after an examination of many sources of information; particularly, Benge Burr's "Guide," "A Poetical Epistle" from the Rev.——, at Tunbridge Wells, Byrom's "Poems," The "Tunbridge Miscellany" for several years, Sprange's "Guide," Paragraphs from old Newspapers, Oliver Goldsmith's "Life of Beau Nash," Thackeray's "Virginians," Mallet's Letters, Cumberland's "Memoirs," Richardson's Letters, Evan's Visit, etc.

"ponds about a mile from the Walks, on Mount Ephraim, "where you may have tea or syllabub in the evening. The "place is delightfully situated and prettily laid out, but at "present much neglected."

An old letter, dated April 1st, 1724, mentions that a young Kentish yeoman, of £1000 a year, ran off from Tunbridge Wells with a young lady worth £5000, and that, on the very day he made her acquaintance. The writer slily adds :—"They say "there are not less than twelve or fourteen £10,000 ladies in the "same town that would be glad to go off on the same terms!"

Many persons of royal blood have, since the days of Queen Anne, made Tunbridge Wells a place of summer sojourn. Among these may be mentioned :—Frederick, Prince of Wales, in 1739; the Princess Amelia, in 1762; the Dukes of York and Gloucester, in 1765; the Princess Sophia, in 1795; the Prince and Princess of Orange, in 1797. The Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria passed two seasons at Tunbridge Wells; one in the old house (Lushington House) which stood on the site now occupied by the Calverley Hotel, and the other upon Mount Ephraim. In the summer of 1871, the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne visited the Wells, and this, it is said, led to their purchasing Dornden as a rural residence, which, however, they have long since re-sold.

If the water-poets may be believed, there has always been an abundance of distinguished beauties among the visitors to Tunbridge Wells. In 1712, three handsome daughters of the Duke of Marlborough were the belles of the season. On the occasion of their visit an ecstatic versifier exclaims :—

> "Now, happy spring, retrieve thy sinking name,
> And more than vie with Bladud's rival stream!"

In 1733, there seems to have been an unusual influx of

fascinating beauties, or possibly of impressionable rhymesters. Exclaims one :—

"The fair who Tunbridge grace demand my lays!"

After an enumeration of these ladies, he winds up his verse thus solemnly and rhetorically :—

"These with their several charms do Tunbridge grace,
And add distinguished lustre to the place;
Just so the starry train adorn the sky,
And with each other do in brightness vie!"

One more specimen of these panegyrics will satisfy, if not satiate, the reader: it relates to the Tunbridge Beauty in this same year, 1733, one N——s :—

"Fair village, pride of Kent, regret no more
Thy dearth of beauty and thy triumphs o'er;
No longer to thy rocks and hills proclaim
Thy faded honours and thy lessened fame;
Nor N——s to thy walks and thee
What Venus to her Cyprus was, shall be:
Again renowned in fame shall Tunbridge prove
The seat of beauty, virtue, and of love."

Some names of interest are associated with houses still remaining, or sites still known in Tunbridge Wells. It is believed by many, but on what grounds it would be difficult to say, that Charles II. occupied Ephraim House, and the infamous Judge Jeffreys, Chancellor House. Of course, the present residences bearing those names are comparatively modern. In Mount Pleasant House died Lord Chandos, known through the writings of Pope. Lord North, after his retirement, lived at North Grove House. Richard Cumberland lived for more than twenty years in a house which formerly stood on Mount Sion, and bore his name, "inhabiting the same house and cultivating "a plot of garden ground." "In this salubrious climate," he says, "I never experienced so much indisposition as to confine me

"to my bed even for a single hour. . . . In this climate "only could my wife breathe with freedom, and experience "repose." "It was no common recommendation to a place of "residence," he remarks, "when our summer society could boast "of visitors so respectable as the Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, "the ex-Premier, Lord North, the Duke of Leeds, the Lord "Primate Robinson, the Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, Archbishop "Moore, Bishop Moss, and others." Selina, Countess of "Huntingdon, lived at Culverden, and William Huntingdon, who rejoiced in the title of S.S. (Sinner Saved), died in a back room of Somerville Cottage. George IV., when Prince of Wales, used to be seen walking on the Parade with Lord Thurloe. The first Duchess of Wellington was at Douro House when she received tidings of the victory of Salamanca; at Boyne House in 1835, the Princess Victoria resided; and in 1849, the same illustrious personage, as Queen, with Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, and the ex-King and Queen of the French, came to the Calverley Hotel on a visit to Adelaide, the Queen Dowager. Queen Marie Amélie, the relict of Louis Philippe, with her family and suite, for several seasons before her death made Chancellor House her summer resort.

After the great French Revolution, some French refugee priests, driven from their own land, found an asylum in England, and took up their abode at Tunbridge Wells, where they lived in cottages upon Mount Ephraim, of which only a few now remain. These priests are said to have received a small allowance from the English Government to provide for their maintenance in their exile.

At the close of the last and the commencement of the present century, a great change passed over the character of Tunbridge Wells. From that time to the present the place has been rapidly rising in favour as a place of permanent residence. The erection

of larger and more convenient dwellings has tended to promote a more domestic and less public life, even among the visitors. Mr. Amsinck, himself a master of the ceremonies, whose work on Tunbridge Wells, a handsome quarto volume, with many illustrations,* was published in 1810, traces the change which was proceeding in his time, which he admits was, "in some measure "to the disparagement of the public place, but certainly much to "the amelioration of society." "At present," he says, "it seems "almost exclusively to retain its character for good and select "company. The public amusements are continued on their "ancient footing, but are engaged in without compulsion, as "occasional recreation: whilst the habits of private society are "daily gaining ground, and social intercourse is promoted by "the unencumbered resources of the public establishment. . . . "Little more than half-a-century ago, the season was limited to "the short period between Midsummer and Michaelmas. After "that time the trades-people themselves migrated, the taverns "were closed, the chapel service was discontinued, and the place "remained a desert till the following spring. As late as thirty "years back, it was very unusual for a family to continue beyond "the month of November. Now . . . . the population of the "place has become stationary; and from a migrating colony; "Tunbridge Wells has become a place of considerable wealth, "consequence, and respectability. Mount Ephraim, in par- "ticular, has imperceptibly become a cluster of country houses, "belonging to several respectable families; whilst others in "different parts, are either private property, or are regularly "occupied by the same tenants."

"Of the present state of the public amusements (continues "Amsinck), a few words may suffice. The rooms are con- "stantly open, on the usual terms of subscription, for balls and

* The Publisher has on sale a few copies of this work, which is now becoming scarce.

"cards; and a small, neat Theatre has lately been erected. . . .
"The terms of meeting are easy, and the forms regular.
"Occasionally a tea-drinking or concert vary the scene."

During the eighty years which have elapsed since this account just quoted was penned, great changes have gone on, and in the same direction. The following causes may be especially mentioned as having contributed to bring about the very altered and improved condition of Tunbridge Wells. (1) Direct railway communication has made access to this favourably-situated town remarkably easy; swift trains, to and from London particularly, make it possible for gentlemen having professional or commercial engagements in Town, to live at Tunbridge Wells, either permanently, or during a great part of the year. The number of season ticket holders, who perform the journey several days a week, is considerable; while the frequent and convenient communication which exists, causes the place to be looked upon as a suburb of London; and families fixing their abode here do not regard themselves as separated from their pursuits or their friends in the Metropolis. (2) The dwelling houses, which during the last forty years have been erected on the Calverley Plain and elsewhere, forming entirely new portions of the town, have, by their healthy situation and modern conveniences, attracted many residents to the place. In later years, many new estates have been opened up by the enterprise of landowners, and builders, where mansions and convenient residences of all sizes have been erected, which have attracted many to take up their abode in this neighbourhood. (3) The erection, within the last fifty years, of about twenty churches and chapels, for the most part commodious buildings, has had a large share in the settlement of many quiet and religious families in Tunbridge Wells, and the formation of good educational establishments both for girls

and boys. (4) The local government of the town has been adapted to the changing circumstances of the place. An Act was passed in 1835, empowering Tunbridge Wells to hold fairs and markets of its own, and providing for watching, lighting, paving and cleansing. The powers of this Act were greatly extended in 1846, under which any inhabitant who was rated at £50 and upwards could sit on as a Commissioner, without election, provided he qualified by declaring that he was willing to undertake the duties of a Commissioner, but under this system grave inconveniences often arose. To remedy this and to advocate a more modern form of government a public meeting was called on March 5th, 1860, the Rev. Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., Rector of Frant, presiding, when the following resolution was passed :—"That as no form of Local "Government can be considered satisfactory that does not give "the ratepayers generally a voice in its administration, it is "resolved that a change in the government of this town is "desirable." A committee was formed consisting of the chairman, Mr. J. Stone-Wigg, Mr. W. Delves, Mr. Trustram, Mr. John Colbran, and others, to carry out the wishes of the meeting. At this early time, Sir Henry Thompson and some others advocated "*Incorporation*," but the majority over-ruled this, and the result was that in lieu of this the town adopted the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1848, and the Local Government Act, 1858, sec. 77, which replaced the antiquated system then in use, and instituted a representative board consisting of 24 members, one-third of whom retired yearly, but were eligible for re-election. The town was governed in this way until February, 1889, when a Charter was granted and the town created a Borough ; having a Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen. The Corporation has applied for and obtained Parliamentary powers under a recent Act, by which they will be

able to govern the town more efficiently, and continue to carry out such improvements as may from time to time be found necessary.

Such, in a few words, have been the stages through which this interesting watering-place has passed during its existence of two centuries and a half, and by which it has reached its present eminent position among places of residence and resort. If the reader has kindly followed us as we have presented to his imagination these successive scenes in the past history of Tunbridge Wells, he will be the better prepared to accompany us in our description of what there is interesting by association with the past, and of what there is in itself beautiful and attractive in scenery, to invite his attention to-day.





THE RAILS AND THE ROAD:

OR, HOW TO GET TO TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

GREAT recommendation of Tunbridge Wells as a place of resort, to the inhabitants of the Metropolis especially, is its nearness to Town, with the remarkable facilities of access with which it is now favoured.

There are three railway routes to Tunbridge Wells from London. (1) The direct South Eastern Line, by Chislehurst and Sevenoaks to Tonbridge, and from thence by the Hastings Branch to the Wells. By this route the distance from London Bridge is only thirty-two miles. The scenery bordering the line is extremely pretty, and the traveller cannot but admire the verdant meadows, the waving corn fields, the singularly beautiful and graceful hop gardens, and the lordly parks through which he is driven. The richly-wooded country about Chislehurst is universally admired as among the prettiest scenery near London. The chalk range known as the North

Downs, the sandstone ridge on which Sevenoaks is placed, and the long chain of hilly ground which is capped by Bidborough Mill, successively claim the notice and the admiration of the passenger by this line. The train service is excellent, and the journey occupies, by the fast trains, a little under the hour.

(2) The old route, which was the main line of the South Eastern before the new railroad was constructed. This is by way of Croydon and Red Hill, and although now comparatively little used, may be adopted for a change. The Westerham Hills to the north are a very pleasing feature of this route, which also passes near the pretty village of Leigh, and the Park at Penshurst. The distance from London is forty-six miles.

(3) The London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway also offers an agreeable variety in the journey from London to the Wells. The trains by this line start from Victoria and London Bridge, and passing through Croydon arrive at Tunbridge Wells along the new Oxted and Groombridge line, which travels through very pretty country. Some of the fast trains accomplish this journey in one hour. Or the traveller may proceed viâ Three Bridges Junction, and thence to Tunbridge Wells. This journey is longer, and the route from Three Bridges penetrates some of the most secluded woodland scenery in Sussex. Another journey can be made viâ Croydon and Oxted to East Grinstead, changing there for Tunbridge Wells.

The South Eastern Termini and Stations in London are at Charing Cross, Waterloo, Cannon Street, and London Bridge; those of the Brighton Company are at Victoria Station, Pimlico, Kensington, and London Bridge. Altogether, over forty trains run daily each way during the summer season, between London and Tunbridge Wells.

By the trains of the South Eastern Company there is direct and frequent communication with St. Leonards-on-Sea and



By permission of **MOUNT PLEASANT, SHOWING S.E.R. STATION.** *Carl Norman & Co.*

Hastings, with the eastern and northern parts of Kent, with Surrey by the Guildford branch, and with the Midland Counties viâ Reading; whilst the South Coast Company provides abundant and direct means of access to Brighton, Lewes, Eastbourne, Bournemouth, and Portsmouth: so that it may be truly said, that few places are more fortunate than Tunbridge Wells in being the centre of railway communications, and consequently accessible from all parts of the country.

The South Eastern Station is conveniently situated in the middle of the town, at the foot of Mount Pleasant, and lies in a hollow between two tunnels. The London and Brighton Terminus is on the Eridge Road, beyond the Pantiles, and has very commodious waiting rooms and offices, and ample goods accommodation.





RESIDENTS AND VISITORS:

AND THEIR

ACCOMMODATION.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS has undergone a great change within the memory of the elder among its inhabitants and frequenters. Up to within a very recent period, it was strictly a watering-place; it was visited during a few months of the year by those who came to drink the chalybeate waters, and by those who were attracted by its air, scenery, society and gaieties. But during the last fifty years, especially during the latter half of that period, the town has become a very favourite place of residence, and many families of wealth and leisure, with no strong local attachments elsewhere, have selected it as their abode. Unbeneficed clergymen, gentlemen who have served their country in the army, in the navy, or in colonial appointments, and retired merchants, have settled in large numbers in this quiet, healthy, and lovely spot. It is also a favourite residence

for widows and maiden ladies of independent means. The number of summer visitors certainly does not diminish ; on the contrary, it is yearly on the increase. But the most remarkable progress has been in the number of families permanently resident in the place. The population has, accordingly, grown with unusual rapidity ; in 1821 it was, according to the census then taken, about 5,000 ; in 1861 it had risen to 13,807 ; in 1881 it numbered 24,309 ; whilst it was computed to have reached, according to the census of 1891, within the Borough district alone, 27,895 ; and including the several parishes of the Union, 58,360. The rateable value of property has increased from £55,140 in 1853, to over £219,700 in 1896. A 1d. rate produces £850. The death-rate is remarkably low and the town is always free from epidemic illness of all kinds.

The "Season" at Tunbridge Wells, or the period when it is chiefly resorted to by visitors, extends from Easter until late in the autumn, but it is at its height during the months of August and September. There is a growing disposition towards visiting the Wells in the spring ; and certainly nothing can exceed the beauty of the Common, and of the whole surrounding country, in the month of May. The late summer is, however, the favourite period with visitors, whose presence is chiefly indicated by the handsome equipages, and the merry, well-mounted riding parties, to be met in the roads skirting the Common, and in every shady lane for miles around.

HOTELS.

Tunbridge Wells is not behind other towns as to hotel accommodation. There will be found hotels to suit all classes, and all conducted in a very admirable manner. Some are situated near the Common, and command extensive views of the neighbourhood, and others are to be found in convenient



Calverley Hotel, overlooking Calverley Park.

localities. There are also some very excellent commercial houses. One of the principal family hotels is undoubtedly "The Calverley." The building occupies a commanding position at the entrance of Calverley Park, and is built of freestone, after the design of Decimus Burton, Esq. Prior to the erection of the Hotel, this site was occupied by Lushington House, a favourite summer residence of the late Duchess of Kent and her daughter, then Princess Victoria, and now the Queen of Great Britain. The Calverley has the reputation of being a family hotel of the highest order, and contains ample accommodation for many families. The grounds and terraces overlook Calverley Park, and far beyond in a southerly direction the landscape is bounded by Crowborough Beacon, Gill's Lap, and the various other heights of Ashdown Forest.



Wellington Hotel and Rocks.

"The Wellington" Hotel is much frequented, and its position commands extensive views of the surrounding country. It is situated on Mount Ephraim, and the site on which it is built is over 400 feet above the sea level. It is elegantly furnished and has recently been fitted throughout with the electric light. Families will find this hotel a most comfortable residence.

"The Spa" Hotel stands upon the site of an old mansion at Bishop's Down, immediately facing the end of Major Yorke's Road. It is in an elevated and sheltered position with southern aspect, overlooking the Common, and has extensive and beautiful grounds at the rear and sides. It is capable of accommodating 150 visitors. There are BATHS of all descriptions—Medicated, German, Turkish, Hot and Cold, attached to the hotel, to which



The Spa Residential Hotel.

non-residents are also admitted on payment of reasonable fees. An additional attraction has lately been added, by the establishment of both ladies' and gentlemen's GOLF LINKS with suitable club rooms, which are contained within the spacious and lovely grounds of the hotel. There are also well-kept LAWN TENNIS COURTS, both grass and cement.

HOUSES, LODGINGS, AND SHOPS.

Houses, of every range of accommodation, of every style of architecture, and every variety of aspect, may be secured by the visitor or the intending resident. Furnished houses, from the *cotage ornée* to the palatial mansion, may be procured during the season, for a longer or shorter period; some of these having been built and furnished as a speculation or investment, others being gentlemen's dwellings let during the season by the owners

or tenants who may be absent from the place. Unfurnished houses may be had in great variety: the large demand for commodious residences having led several enterprising builders to erect houses in the most eligible sites the town affords. It is seldom that a well-situated and well-built dwelling-house remains unoccupied; so numerous are the enquirers for residences, that the supply, rapidly as it increases, does not more than keep pace with the demand.

There is almost always a sufficient choice of well-furnished lodgings, with good cooking and attendance.

There are House Agents in Tunbridge Wells, whose business it is to afford all information respecting dwelling-houses and apartments. Some of these Agents publish periodically lists of houses to be sold or let, furnished and unfurnished; these the visitor may procure upon application.

Strictly speaking, Tunbridge Wells cannot boast of a market. Nevertheless, few places are so well provided with all the necessaries, comforts, and luxuries of life. The shops are supplied with a variety of the best goods. The South Down mutton is incomparably the best in the world, and is to be had at all the butchers' shops. There is an abundant supply of fish, poultry, and game, including the celebrated wheat-ear or English ortolan. Fruit and vegetables come in daily from the garden of England, as the fertile valleys of Mid Kent are appropriately called. With regard to all manufactured goods, it is enough to say that the shops are on a level with those of the West End of London as regards the quality of articles supplied; and provisions and other goods are vended at prices which will bear favourable comparison with the London stores, or any other watering-place in England. The *specialité* of the place is the famous Tunbridge Ware, a notice of which is to be found in another part of this Guide. The "water biscuits" made here are

considered an agreeable addition to the dessert table, and have long been supplied (by command) to the Royal household.

The shops most frequented by the visitors and residents are to be found on the Pantiles, in Chapel Place, in the High Street, The Broadway, Mount Pleasant, on Mount Ephraim, and in the Grosvenor, Calverley, St. John's, Camden, Church and Monson Roads.

WATER, DRAINAGE AND LIGHTING.

In these days, when so much stress is laid upon the sanitary condition of our towns, it will not be deemed unimportant to remark upon the care bestowed upon Tunbridge Wells in regard to the essentials of public health. The water supplied by the wells attached to some houses is impregnated with iron, and partakes, to a greater or less degree, of the character of the Chalybeate Spring. There being some objection to the use of water of this quality, attempts were long since made to supply the town with water having no mineral ingredients. In the year 1814, a plumber, Taylor by name, brought water in leaden pipes to the Pantiles, from a spring a quarter of a mile to the south.* Subsequently, water was brought to the lower part of the town from the estate of Lord Abergavenny, where it was collected in a reservoir on the road to Frant. The upper part of the town was supplied by a spring in the northern valley, known as Jack Wood Spring.

The yearly increasing dimensions of the town, and the desirableness of watering the streets, led the Authorities to undertake the more adequate supply of Tunbridge Wells with water of good quality. After many enquiries, it was decided that certain springs at Pembury were most adapted to the purpose. Accordingly, these springs were utilized, reservoirs

* Dr. Thomson's Addenda to Dr Scudamore's Analysis of the Mineral Waters of Wells 1816.

were made, machinery and aqueducts of the proper kind were provided, and as a result, the place has now for many years been abundantly supplied with water of unexceptionable quality; but with a view to meet the growing requirements of the town, a reservoir, covering an area of about seven acres, is now constructed at Pembury, which is hoped will ensure to the inhabitants an unlimited and constant supply. This state of things contrasts very favourably with that formerly existing in Tunbridge Wells. There was, a century ago, a prejudice against the use of chalybeate water for drinking purposes; and a visitor in 1761 recorded that the only good water to be had in the place was obtained from a little beer-house, where it was sold for a halfpenny a bottle!

Co-ordinate in importance with the water supply, with reference to the sanitary condition of the town, is the drainage. Incredible almost was the neglect of this matter, universal among our forefathers. Now, however, physiological science is so widely diffused throughout our country, that something like a clamour has arisen in many places for new and improved methods of disposing of the refuse incidental to a populous town. Tunbridge Wells has certainly not lagged behind other places in this matter. A vast and comprehensive system of drainage has been brought to perfection at an enormous cost. At the northern outfall, is an extensive farm on the Colebrook or Great Lodge Estate, upon which the town sewage is used for the fertilization of the land, and the production of large crops. At the southern outfall, near the Groombridge Railway Station, a similar plan is in operation. Tunbridge Wells may now confidently boast itself one of the best drained towns in England.

The paving and lighting of the town will be seen by every visitor to approach perfection. The brick and asphalte foot-

paths receive universal commendation, and make walking practicable and agreeable in all states of the weather.

The Gas Works have been erected upon a spacious plot of ground, near the northern outfall Sewage Farm. These works possess every modern scientific appliance for the manufacture of this necessary article, which is supplied of good illuminating power, and at a very moderate price, the quality being tested at intervals by a Gas Examiner appointed by the Corporation.

Last year, during the Mayoralty of Sir David L. Salomons, Bart., the Corporation, under powers granted to them, installed the Electric Light, and adopted it for street lighting and for private consumption. The Electric Lighting Station is at the bottom of Camden Road, and several of the streets are now lit with Arc lamps in place of Gas. It is being rapidly taken advantage of by the hotel proprietors and traders, as well as by occupiers of private residences.

The South of England Telephone Company has established an "Exchange," which now numbers many Subscribers, who can send at will messages from one part of the town to another. This also extends to the Metropolis, to Southborough, Tonbridge, and many large towns in Kent and elsewhere. The chief office is at the Broadway Chambers, opposite the S.E.R. Station. The public may also use the Telephone at the Post Office.



THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

"O Fons nulli impar! meritos tibi condere honores
Quis par esse queat? tua laus (si carmina nostr
Digni legi fuerint, nec edax aboleverit ætas)
Vivet in æternum nullis ignota Britannis."
*Causton.**

AS the mineral waters were the original cause of the existence, fame, and prosperity of this place, and as they have always attracted a large number of visitors in quest of health, it is right they should occupy a foremost place in a descriptive "Guide" to Tunbridge Wells. The story of their discovery has already been told; the reader may be pleased to peruse a few quaint and devout reflections—first uttered in Tunbridge Wells Chapel when it was newly built—upon the virtues of the waters, their repute, and the spirit in which they should be used.

"The mighty confluence, of which these Wells are the centre, "is a very humbling, a very mortifying consideration. For "though the gallantry and rich attire of the company may "forget its solitude, and we may in this wilderness find such

* Causton was a bookseller on Cornhill, who wrote several Latin Poems; amongst them one in praise of Tunbridge Wells, published in 1684.

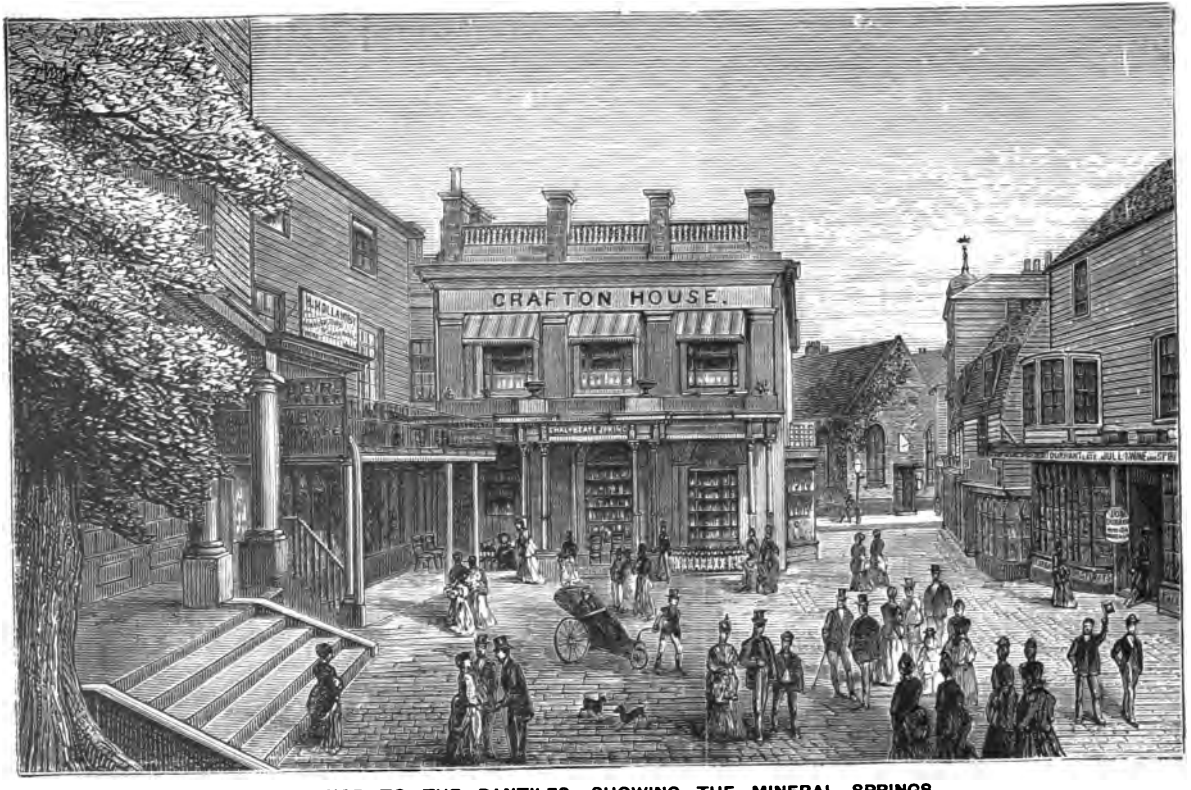
"softness and delicacy as uses to be in kings' houses: yet in "very truth, this place is but a great hospital, and the splendid "buildings which rise so fast at Southborough, Rusthall, and "about Mount Ephraim, are but so many apartments in this "great infirmatory, and the guests that fill them are but so many "impotent Lazars under the vests of Dives. Every glass we "drink for cure is a tacit confession of our hidden infirmities "and inward distempers. . . . . Thou, Lord, art our Physician, "we are Thy patients; these Wells are Thy shop, these waters "are Thy medicines." *

The traditional explanation of the ferruginous character of the Wells is less devout, but is at all events amusing. To quote from Murray's "Hand-book for Kent:"—

"The Spring had no doubt been long known to the peasantry, "for, as Meg Dods asserted of St. Ronan's Well, its steely "taste was traditionally said to have been imparted by the devil, "who, after his conflict with St. Dunstan, at Mayfield, fled here "to dip his nose in the water, hitherto pure and tasteless. "Another, and perhaps more satisfactory version, attributes the "chalybeate of the Spring to St. Dunstan himself, who, finding "that the enemy's nose had imparted an unusual heat to his "tongs, cooled them in the water at this place."

Dr. Patrick Madan, who wrote for the benefit of "a person of quality," and published in 1687 a commendation of the Tunbridge Water, speaks in the most extravagant terms of its peerless virtue. Quoting the saying that "steel is the worst instrument of death and best of life" (*pessimum mortis sed optimum vitæ instrumentum*), he affirms:—"I believe if there be "any such remedy in being as a panpharmacum, or universal "remedy—'tis here." The modern reader's faith is, however, by no means strengthened by the learned doctor's exposition of

* Dr. Anthony Walker's "Fire out of Water," 1684.



ENTRANCE TO THE PANTILES, SHOWING THE MINERAL SPRINGS.

Mars and Venus, and their relation to the Spring, nor by his solemn permission to the patient to "make the number of glasses drunk either odd or even."

Delightfully droll are the following sage instructions addressed by this physician to such as wished to derive benefit from the waters :—"Leave pining cares behind when you come to Tun-"bridge, expatiate your mind, and hearken sometimes to the "charming music you have there, for melody—gently soothing "nature—disposes the spirits into a dancing. Physicians here "are many, able, and eminent. Many learned divines and "spiritual guides are not wanting. Moreover, at Tunbridge "you will find conference with eminent and famous wits. The "whole ambient of the horizon is filled with an inexhaustible "series of odoriferous and frequent effluviums, incessantly "exhaling from sweet-scented herbs and plants. Those who "drink these waters must be facetious, gay, jovial, free from "melancholy, peevishness, etc. As in reference to the number "of glasses, you may make it odd or even, though some "philosophers prefer the odd before the even, and attribute to "it greater properties." *

In these lights were the waters regarded by the clerical and medical advisers of primæval Tunbridge Wells.

According to tradition, the present Spring is not that originally discovered, which, it is said, rises behind the Sussex Hotel. "About the middle of the last century, an attempt was made "by the proprietor of the tavern to bring this spot into notice, "and even to make it the fashionable rendezvous for the "company. At a considerable expense the ground was cleared, "walks were laid out, new plantations formed, and the muddy "water put into new courses, so as to occasion what he meant "to call cascades ; but either the place was found to be incon-

* P. Madan, "Waters of Tunbridge," 1687 (condensed by the Quarterly Reviewer).

"venient, or prejudices in favour of old haunts prevailed, "probably to the injury of the projector, inasmuch as it quickly "obtained the name of 'Todd's Folly.'" Linden Park and Gardens now cover the ground.

Writing of the extravagant draughts of mineral water taken by patients in the middle of the seventeenth century, Dr. Rouzee says :—

"Now, for the whole quantity of water to be taken in a "morning, you shall see some that rise very high, even to three "hundred ounces, according to Nestor's years ; yea, and some "a greater quantity. And it is a thing that will make the very "women there filling their glasses to laugh, to see some patients "sent thither by ignorant physicians, and appointed to take ten "or twelve ounces of water, and arise perhaps to twenty or "thirty ounces. But this may be a rule for a body of competent "years and strength, to begin at thirty, forty, or fifty ounces, "and to arise by degrees, increasing their quantity every day to "a hundred, a hundred and fifty, or two hundred ounces, more "or less, as they shall be able : and so again to decline and "decrease by degrees, ending where they began."

Modern physicians have usually recommended far more moderate potations. Dr. Hugh Smith considered a pint of the chalybeate water to be a sufficient dose. Dr. Scudamore (1816) recommends "that half-a-pint, a pint, a pint and a-half, and two "pints, should form the progressive ratio of the total daily "quantity to be taken at the three intervals. As the patient "arrives at the larger proportions, they may with advantage be "sub-divided, with the interval of a quarter, or half-an-hour, "which should be occupied in exercise." *

The celebrity of the Tunbridge Wells water gave an impetus to the discovery of other Springs of a similar character. Dr. Linden

* See, for further directions, Dr. Powell's "Medical Topography of Tunbridge Wells."

mentions a certain Spring near Islington, as then known by the name of New Tunbridge Wells—probably that known to Bevis, and since, as Baggnige Wells; and as early as 1668, Springs brought into notice at Canterbury were for a time trumpeted as preferable to those at Tunbridge Wells.

The Spring which rises on ground near Linden Gardens, and is mentioned in page 62, gravitates through pipes to the Pump Room, and is the water used by the visitors frequenting this place. It is largely impregnated with iron, and is said to have about the same medicinal qualities as the original.

Having given this sketch of the history of the Wells, and the repute in which they have been held, we now ask the reader's attention to the article on the following pages, written by the late Dr. Wilmot, who was a physician practising in Tunbridge Wells for many years, and whose professional reputation was always considered of the highest. His long experience enabled him to judge of the merits of these Springs.



THE MEDICAL QUALITIES AND THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SPRINGS,

BY THE LATE JOHN B. WILMOT, ESQ., M.D.

The Chalybeate Spring to which Tunbridge Wells is indebted, not only for its name, but for its very existence, occupies so insignificant a space in the widely radiating town of which it forms the nucleus, that many a stranger who visits the place for the first time, expecting to be shown a series of grottoes and caverns and wells of mysterious depth, is disappointed at finding only a little granite basin of two feet in diameter, level with the soil, and filled with a pellucid water, which trickles along a shallow groove, and after supplying a second basin, drops through a conduit into the covered brook which divides the counties of Kent and Sussex.

But insignificant as is this spring in appearance, its medicinal virtues are not surpassed by any chalybeate spring in this or any other country.

Those virtues are due to the iron it contains in solution or suspension, and although the quantity per gallon scarcely amounts to three grains, and although a much larger quantity of the various preparations of iron may be easily and safely administered, yet experience has proved that the waters which nature has prepared in her chemical laboratory are more efficacious than any we can introduce by artificial means.

It is not intended in this brief notice to enter into an elaborate analysis of the composition of these waters: suffice it to say that they mainly consist of iron held in solution in water by carbonic-acid gas. Without the aid of this gas the water would not dissolve the iron; so that, when no longer pent up in the bowels of the earth, the gas escapes, like that from a bottle

of champagne when the cork is drawn, the iron, after forming on the surface a thin pellicle with opalescent hues, falls to the bottom in the form of a subtle powder, which communicates a rich ochreous stain to the surface on which it is deposited.

Although these Springs are never frozen, and their temperature only varies from 50° to 52° Fahrenheit, summer or winter it is singular how very superficial is the stratum through which they run. Not that this has often been proved by digging down to their source, but it has so happened that in making some alterations a few years ago in their immediate vicinity, a layer of iron-stone was cut through not three feet from the surface, when great alarm was occasioned by the flow being arrested; on again filling up the cutting the Spring was restored. The horizontal distance of the source is not determined, but from the above-mentioned circumstance, in all probability, it is inconsiderable.

About three miles to the north of Tunbridge Wells commences the district largely impregnated with iron, which is proved by its organic remains to have been a fresh water deposit, and which, extending far down into Sussex, is known as the Hastings sand formation. Throughout this district, where many iron foundries were formerly worked at a profit so long as the fuel for smelting was obtainable on the spot, there are several chalybeate springs equally efficacious with the more celebrated one of Tunbridge Wells; but accident brought this Spring into notice; and the charming aspect of the surrounding country, the number of houses which gradually sprang up around, and the accommodation afforded to visitors, gave a prominence to this particular Spring, and stamped it as *the* famous chalybeate.

The well water of Tunbridge Wells is in many places slightly impregnated with iron, yet this is not universally the case; and

within a very few yards of the Chalybeate Spring are one or two wells whose water does not contain a trace of iron.

Formerly there was, under the present glass and porcelain shop, a plunging bath connected with the Spring, in which the surplus water was collected; but as the produce of the Spring is, during the summer months, little more than one gallon per minute, a very long time was required to fill even one bath; and since the iron is quickly deposited when once the water has left the source, you generally plunged into a stagnant, turbid, rusty pool, and emerged in a condition very much resembling a hide from a tanner's yard. For years the bath was scarcely ever used, and it was finally done away with more than fifty years ago.

The Spring is the property of the Lady of the Manor of Rusthall, who appoints the dippers—the women whose duty it is to attend daily at certain hours, to brush out the basins every morning, and to hand the water in glasses to the drinkers. Formerly sage leaves were furnished to rub their teeth after drinking, but this has been discontinued. The following is the present scale of charges for drinking the water:—

One Week - - -	2/-	Three Months - -	12/6
Two Weeks - - -	3/6	Six ,, - -	20/-
One Month - - -	7/-	Twelve ,, - -	30/-
Two Months - - -	10/-		

A double subscription or fee will entitle any number, members of the same family, to drink the water.

The first basin, to which access is only obtained on payment, receives the water direct from its source, and the overflow is collected in the second basin, which is at all times open to the public. The basins are of polished granite, a material found to be more durable than either marble or stone, both of which had been formerly employed. They were placed there in 1865.

In the year 1847, with the aid of a subscription, considerable improvements were made around the Spring. The present portico and railing were erected, the dippers' lodge was made

more commodious, and the bath was abolished. Until then, the basin which received the Spring was let into the wall of the building behind it; and when it was determined to advance the basin two feet, the workmen had much difficulty in so fixing it that the whole of the water gushing up from below should be led through the small opening pierced in the bottom of the basin.

From the above-mentioned nature of the waters, it is obvious that, in order to obtain their full efficacy, they must be taken from their very source, and that by conducting them along pipes, as is the practice with some other waters, their quality would be impaired.

Many persons have an impression that Tunbridge Wells is no longer resorted to for the sake of its medicinal waters. To a certain extent this may be true, although scarcely borne out as regards the number of drinkers; but no doubt the *proportion* of drinkers to the number of visitors and residents has very much diminished; for whereas formerly the main object of a visit to the place was to obtain the benefit of the waters, at least for one member of a family, the beauty of the situation, the facilities of access, and the ample accommodation afforded by the variety of apartments and houses, have rendered this one of the most attractive places in England for those who are in search of cheerful scenery, a pure, invigorating air, and the conveniences of a considerable town. If the number of drinkers has somewhat diminished, this is assuredly not owing to any diminution in the virtues of the waters themselves; other causes will account for it, and among the foremost may perhaps be reckoned this very facility of access; for familiarity does not always inspire confidence, and the wisest Being who ever assumed the human form has reminded us that "a prophet has no honour in his own country."

In all these water-drinking resorts the benefits derived are

not solely due to the waters themselves; but change of air and scenery, freedom from care, the new life, regular habits, etc., etc., have much to do with the cure.

Those who are peculiarly sensitive to the qualities of the air they breathe in various localities, always describe the air in these regions as singularly tonic and invigorating; and doubtless it is more or less impregnated with iron in a minute impalpable form, not easily detected by mechanical or chemical means. The slow-growing Sussex oak, which flourishes in those districts where the barren soil of clay and sandstone is percolated by iron springs, is known to the timber merchant as possessing the valuable qualities of hardness and toughness in a far higher degree than those trees of a more rapid growth which are met with in a richer soil. And these qualities of the old British oak, the *quercus pedunculatus*, with its long-stalked acorns, may not be owing solely to its slowness of growth, but are probably due in part to the iron which enters its pores every spring, and perhaps even to that inhaled by its leaves.

It is not every constitution that will bear the tonic qualities even of the atmosphere of Tunbridge Wells; for where there is a tendency to fulness of blood, and vertigo and active congestions, not only should the chalybeate waters be avoided, and the accustomed allowance of wine be diminished, but in some cases a removal to a less invigorating air is demanded; but in those chronic cases where chalybeates are prescribed—in constitutions shattered by over-work, late hours, dissipation and excitements in the impure air of a crowded city—in those delicate forms whose pallor indicates a languid circulation and an absence of that healthy freshness which has ever been renowned as "the matchless beauty of the British fair," the old Spring of Tunbridge Wells may still be relied upon for imparting fresh vigour to the frame, and for restoring the vermilion to the lips, and the roses to the blanched and flaccid cheek.

ANALYSIS OF THE CHALYBEATE WATER,

Made in January, 1872, by Thomas Stephenson, Esq., M.D., London, F.R.C.P., Lecturer on Chemistry at Guy's Hospital, London :—

	Grains in each Gallon.		Grains in each Gallon.
Potash - - - -	0·637	Sulphuric Acid - -	2·795
Soda - - - -	1·917	Silica - - - -	0·250
Lime - - - -	1·678	Chlorine - - -	1·853
Magnesia - - -	0·561		
Ferric Oxide- - -	2·131		
Oxide of Manganese -	a trace	Total solid residue on evaporation -	13·370

There was also a deposit from one gallon weighing 0·942 grains, consisting of 0·790 grains of Ferric Oxide, and 0·152 grains of Carbonate of Lime. This deposit, due to escape of gas during transit, is added to the other ingredients in calculating the following results of the above, which may be thus arranged :—

	Grains in each Gallon.		Grains in each Gallon.
Sulphate of Potash -	1·273	Carbonate of Iron - -	4·236
,, Soda - -	2·703	,, Manganese	a trace
,, Lime - -	0·000	Silica - - - -	0·350
Chloride of Sodium -	1·390		
,, Calcium -	1·577	Total -	14·433
,, Magnesium-	0·000		
Carbonate of Lime- -	1·727		
,, Magnesia -	1·177	Total solid residue (experiment) -	14·312

The following Analysis of a Gallon of the Spring Water, copied from an old Guide Book, and made by Dr. Babington, a physician of some note, living many years ago, may be of some interest to our readers :—

	Grains.		Cubic Inches.
Oxide of Iron - - -	1·	Carbonic Acid Gas -	10·6
Common Salt - - -	0· 5	Azotic Gas - - -	4·
Muriated Magnesia - -	2·25	Common Air - - -	1·4
Selenite - - - -	1·25		
	5·		16·

Total 5 grains for the solid contents, and 16 cubic inches for the gaseous.

A more recent Analysis, dated November, 1892, has been made by Dr. Stephenson. It does not differ essentially, however, from the one he made dated 1872, and given above.



THE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

PLACES OF INTEREST AND RESORT.

BEFORE describing these in detail, it may be well to prefix a few observations upon the situation, the climate, and the soil of Tunbridge Wells.

The position of the town is remarkable for elevation. It occupies, generally speaking, the heads and slopes of two valleys, cloven in the elevated land conspicuous in the South-western district of the Weald of Kent. It may interest the reader to know that the altitude of Mount Ephraim, near Earl's Court, is 430ft. above the mean level of the sea; the highest point in the immediate neighbourhood being at the Blackhurst reservoirs, the height there rising to nearly 500ft. The Wells themselves lie in a hollow, which, however, is only *relatively* low-lying. The houses on the Mounts Sion, Ephraim and Pleasant, occupying high ground sloping, generally speaking, towards the south-western outlet or water-course. Portions of the new and populous parts of the town are grouped around the head of a valley running northwards, and are somewhat less favourably placed. The soil is sandstone, of the kind named by geologists "the Hastings sand."

Being extremely porous, this rock and the loose sand on its surface are remarkable for the rapidity with which they absorb all moisture. Hence, water is never seen lying upon the surface ; the rain which falls is immediately absorbed by the earth.

The climate is singularly dry, bracing and wholesome. In winter, Tunbridge Wells is not a mild place of residence. Its elevated and exposed situation renders it, for the most part, breezy and cool ; but there are varieties of climate and temperature, some parts of the town being more sheltered than others. There is, during the whole year, a peculiarly tonic and exhilarating quality in the air, which promotes sleep, produces appetite, thus making exercise enjoyable, and tending to raise and sustain the animal spirits. The loftier situations are remarkably free from humidity, mist and fog.

The tendency of modern medical science is to recommend a bracing climate for constitutions and for disorders which were formerly considered to require a relaxing atmosphere. Accordingly, Tunbridge Wells is in high favour as a place of residence for the delicate, and even for those of weekly lungs, many of whom have testified that in no other place have they experienced such relief, and gained and maintained so decidedly high a standard of general health.

It has sometimes been objected against Tunbridge Wells that there is no water to diversify the landscape, and that only a river is wanting to complete the beauty of the scenery. It is of course physically impossible that a river should flow through what is one of the most elevated districts in the south of England. But the absence of standing or running water is a very great recommendation to Tunbridge Wells as a "health resort." The brooklets which drain the slopes are themselves covered over, and the singular dryness, which is the result of its position, is one of the most effective attractions of the place.

Well-informed persons selecting a residence are familiar with the general rule, which has thus been laid down by Dr. Copland—"Dry, sandy, or gravelly soils, somewhat elevated, above or "removed from the banks of rivers, and covering level, gently "undulating, or moderately hilly plains, are most salubrious."



The Pantiles. (Near the Post Office).

It is almost superfluous to add that ague and similar disorders are utterly unknown, that cholera has never visited the town, and that no fevers are indigenous to the place.

THE PANTILES.

The first place which, as a matter of course, the visitor to Tunbridge Wells will wish to see, is the Pantiles, known to many under the older name of the "Walks."

There is nothing exactly corresponding to this promenade in any other English watering-place ; and the observation made by many a stranger upon the first sight of this unique parade, is, "How antique, how un-English, how foreign!" It is indeed an old-world spot ; and it is an advantage that some of the houses which have been more recently erected, in place of those which



The Pantiles. (Near the Pump Room).

have decayed through age, have been built in the old-fashioned, gabled style, preserving in some degree the quaintness of its appearance, although others are not of a style that is worthy of such a situation.

The "Walks" were constructed about the year 1638, when the place was becoming a fashionable summer rendezvous, and they were used by the company for social exercise during the intervals of drinking the mineral water. They have undergone

several changes; they were paved with square pantiles at the beginning of the last century, and re-paved by public subscription with Purbeck stone in the year 1793. The piazza or portico was placed in front to render the promenade available in wet weather; it extends 525 feet—from the Wells to the further end of the Pantiles. The new houses facing the orchestra occupy the site of the old Assembly Rooms. Until a comparatively recent period, there was a lower as well as an upper walk; an avenue of trees served to separate the one from the other, and to afford shade to both. But the lower walk has now been raised to the higher level. Until the commencement of the present century, the upper walk was reserved for the use of the company, and people of inferior position were never seen mingling with the gay throng of visitors! People now living well remember when a beadle protected the social sacredness of the promenade; the nurserymaids and children, who now make the Pantiles their favourite walk and recreation ground, often to the inconvenience of visitors, were in those days banished by social exclusiveness to less fashionable haunts. This *boulevard* of Tunbridge Wells is, however, still a favourite lounge of the company, who, meeting here, some to drink the waters, and some to "see and to be seen," promenade on the level pavement, sit beneath the shade of a pretty arcade of lime trees, or amuse themselves beneath the colonnade by inspecting the millinery, the jewellery, the photographs, the books, and other articles displayed for sale by the shopkeepers of the place.

During the season, an efficient band of musicians "discourse eloquent music" to the company. They perform on the Pantiles every morning, commencing at eleven o'clock, and on afternoons and evenings at other parts of the town as advertised.

Chairs and benches are provided for the visitors, who are thus enabled to rest, and to enjoy the delicious air and the gay

and animated scene, at the same time that they listen to the lively strains of the musicians.

A few years ago the promenade was widened considerably by taking in the bank, and building up a stone wall, which is surmounted by a handsome palisade; thus increasing the space for promenade, which even now, at the height of the season, is overcrowded; and beneath a part of this, and having an entrance near to the old orchestra, large and convenient lavatories have been constructed for the use of visitors and others.

The Back of the Pantiles, now called "London Road," commands a view of the Common, and of several groups of noble elm trees, unfortunately diminished in number through the violence of occasional gales from the south-west. Many young trees have quite recently been planted to replace the old.

THE COMMON.

What the ocean is to a sea-bathing town, that the Common is to Tunbridge Wells. Here it was that the tents of the early frequenters of the Wells were pitched. It was over its diversified surface, and amidst its pleasant views and delicious odours, that they made their way early on summer mornings to the Springs. Here and there an encroachment was tolerated in these remote times, and rustic cottages nestled among its romantic rocks. But the Act of 1739 provided that no buildings should thenceforward be erected upon the Common, except with the consent of the lord and tenants of the Manor. From that time the most watchful jealousy has checked and frustrated any attempt at encroachment; and the result is, that this charming heath remains in its natural beauty and verdure, a source of pleasure and of health to annually increasing multitudes.

Tunbridge Wells Common, as distinct from that of Rusthall, hereafter to be noticed, comprises an area of about 170 acres.



THE COMMON AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS FROM MOUNT EPHRAIM.



THE COMMON, NEAR MOUNT EDGECUMBE.

Except that a very few pretty villas have been built upon the sites of some ancient encroachments, this space is left entirely open and free to all. It is, however, skirted by a fringe of mansions, villas, and lodging-houses; and every situation is prized which commands a view over any portion of this charming heath. To persons of good taste its natural and wild condition renders it far more attractive than the artificial parks which it is the fashion to provide for the healthful recreation of the dwellers in large cities. The furze bushes and the brake are the most noticeable ornaments, but the whole expanse abounds with other plants and blossoms—ling and heath, chamomile and thyme, hawk weed and St. John's wort, milkwort and wild violets, being among the most abundant. In April and May the golden bloom of the furze, which is unusually profuse in this spot, delights the eye, and its rich perfume scents the breeze. Later in the summer, the green fronds of the luxuriant brake lend a peculiar brightness to some portions of the Common. Here and there a mass of sandy rock breaks the smoothness and verdure of the surface; a clump of fir trees or of limes occupies each conspicuous knoll; and the views of the scattered hamlets, which together make up Tunbridge Wells, are peacefully pleasing. Footpaths intersect the Common in every direction, and these are always dry, even after a copious fall of rain. Several carriage drives also cross the Common.

Near Bishop's Down is a well-kept and spacious cricket ground, railed off from the surrounding Common; and during the summer good matches are frequently played here. In the severe winter of 1885-6, another large ground, opposite Rose Hill School, available for cricket, football, sports, etc., was levelled and railed off, which is known by the name of "The Lower Cricket Ground." On this an oak tree was planted by Mrs. Stone-Wigg, on June 21st, 1887, as a memorial of the

fiftieth anniversary of the reign of our gracious Queen. This was ruthlessly cut down afterwards by some disloyal miscreant.

The race-course round the Common may still be traced, but the races were discontinued many years since.

A broad gravel promenade has been laid down from opposite the Wellington Hotel, and running the whole length of Mount Ephraim. This has become a very favourite place for visitors and residents, and as it commands the fine views towards Crowborough, there cannot be found a much more delightful place for a stroll. It only needs a few sheltered seats to make it more popular with those who come here to regain their strength, for the air on this elevated walk is most bracing and delicious.

There is also a well-kept grass walk, running parallel with the Eridge Road, which forms a pleasant promenade. This may be reached by steps under the elm trees opposite the Pump Room.

Queen Anne's Grove has already been referred to: in emulation of that sylvan memorial to a royal patron, a new grove was planted upon the Common on the 12th of February, 1835, by J. C. Gardner, Esq., and the freehold tenants; which in commemoration of the visits of the Queen and the Duchess of Kent to the town, was named the Royal Victoria Grove. These trees still form a very pretty avenue, which is a favourite resort on summer days.

On this occasion a dinner was given at Nash's Assembly Rooms, Aretas Akers, Esq., in the chair. It was, unfortunately, a very wet day and not conducive to the enjoyment of the out-door ceremony; but 200 sat down and the following toasts were proposed:—The King (William IV.); The Queen (Adelaide); H.R.H. Duchess of Kent; The Princess Victoria. After the



By permission of THE COMMON, LOOKING TOWARDS THE PANTILES. *Messrs. Lankester & Warren.*



By permission of THE COMMON, NEAR FIR TREE POND. *Carl Norman & Co.*

last toast the glee "Glorious Apollo" was sung, and for the first verse was substituted the following :—

Royal Victoria! health and blessings greet thee,
Each loyal tongue proclaims aloud thy praise;
Each loyal Briton prays there may avail thee
Peace and contentment with health and length of days.
Thus—then combining, hands and hearts joining—
Sing we in harmony, Victoria's praise.

The chronicler says that after this—"To describe the "applause, the loud, long and enthusiastic cheering that fol- "lowed this toast would be impossible. After it had been "drunk with three times three, thrice repeated, the whole com- "pany again arose simultaneously, and the cheers were renewed "and increased. Never was a toast more heartily received, and "never were cheers given with more thorough sincerity." It was no "guinea dinner" however, the price being 5/- which included a pint of wine.

Under the auspices of the Tradesmen's Association, and during the presidency of Mr. E. Charlton (1896), some 150 trees have been planted on the Common by various inhabitants, including the Marquess of Abergavenny. His lordship also presented some firs, which came from Her Majesty's estate at Balmoral, and these were planted by Lady Henry Nevill and Miss Joan Nevill.

A number of seats and benches have been placed on the Common, in the most eligible and attractive positions for commanding views of the surrounding scenery.

THE GROVE.

By a deed made the 20th of April, 1703, John, known as Earl of Buckingham (the same who confirmed the grant of the chapel site previously made by his mother) conveyed to trustees about four acres of land planted with very fine oaks and beeches.

This trust was "to the intent and purpose that the said Grove "and the trees there growing or to grow, shall not be cut down, "nor the said Grove or trees converted to any private use, but "shall be continually preserved for a Grove, and shade, and "walks for the use of all the inhabitants of the several houses "built or to be built" on "land called Inham or the park or "forest of South Frith; and for their lodgers, servants, and "families, to come, go, and walk in and upon the said Grove, "at their will and pleasure."

In 1781, "the Grove contained about 200 oaks, some of "them very large, containing about four or five loads of timber "in a tree, ten large beech trees, about sixty small trees of lime "and sycamore, two fir and two yew trees." In the following winter some trees were felled and sold, and with the proceeds repairs and improvements and new plantings were effected. It is recorded that about 1784 it was discovered that all the trustees had died without appointing successors; and that a grandson of one sister of the last surviving trustee, and five great grandsons of another sister (these two sisters being his co-heirs) had to be found out and made parties to a deed appointing new trustees.

It is a pleasant retreat during sultry weather, besides forming a very noble feature in the landscape when viewed from the Common. Under the active and skilful curatorship of the late Rev. W. L. Pope, who was one of the three trustees, improvements were, a few years since, made in the Grove. There is an endowment for its maintenance of about £25 a year.

The Corporation have taken the sole charge of the Grove, under the powers conferred upon them by the Act of 1889, and it has been recently much improved; additional seats and other accommodation having been provided. It can now be entered from the three roads—Sutherland Road, Meadow Hill

Road, and Guildford Road, each turning out of Grove Hill Road. This is a great convenience to the public.

Every frequenter of this retreat will admit the appropriateness of the motto inscribed upon the gate at the entrance: *Silva quam dilecta!*

THE MOUNTS, PARKS, AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS.

How various localities about Tunbridge Wells became possessed of their singular Scriptural names is not clearly ascertained. The rival hills of Sion and Ephraim were so denominated from the time of their occupation. Some have conjectured that these names originated in a fancied resemblance between the site of Tunbridge Wells and Jerusalem; but this does not account for the appellation of the hill of Bishop's Down, as Ephraim was probably sixteen miles north-east from Jerusalem. Others have considered that rival sects gave these designations, but there is no kind of appropriateness in the application. CALVERLEY has been interpreted as a corruption of Calvary, and also as a modification of Culverden (or the valley of the wild pigeon). But the property formerly belonged to Matthew Calverley, from which circumstance it is certain that this part of the town has taken its name. It may be added that in old books we read of Calverley's fields. The road in which Trinity Church is situated was formerly known as Jordan Lane; so that there does seem some affinity between a Scriptural nomenclature and this old watering-place.

The houses on MOUNT EPHRAIM face the south, look over the Common, and command fine and uninterrupted views. Very high prices have been paid for plots of land on this most eligible situation, which is in great request for private residences.

The London Road commands a view of Mount Ephraim and the upper part of the Common.

MOUNT SION formerly contained the largest number of old red-tiled buildings. These have mostly been pulled down, and replaced by smaller houses of a more modern character. Only a few remain which can be called "charming residences, with extensive gardens and grounds." There is a tradition that the chapel-clerk at a certain time in the last century kept a lodging-house on this hill, and was accustomed to inform the congregation when his apartments were vacant, by giving out the Psalm commencing,

"Mount Sion is a pleasant place!"

MOUNT PLEASANT, which rises northwards from the Railway Station, and connects the upper with the lower parts of the town, amply justifies its name. On the highest parts of it many handsome edifices have been erected, among which the houses of Calverley Parade and Calverley Terrace may be noticed. Trinity Church, with its original burial ground and its schools, and the Congregational Church, are also commandingly placed on this hill. The substantial-looking banking house for the London and County Bank, and several dwelling-houses and shops have been erected between Mount Pleasant and the grounds of the Calverley Hotel. On the top of the hill stands the very handsome "Old Bank" (late Messrs. Beechings), now a branch of Lloyds' Bank, Limited, designed by Mr. H. H. Cronk, and an architectural ornament to the town.

The parks are of quite modern date. Of these there are several in Tunbridge Wells and its immediate vicinity, studded with private residences of first-class character.

BISHOP'S DOWN PARK is situated in a sheltered hollow between Bishop's Down and Culverden, and is in the direction

of Hurst Wood. Some very spacious and attractive houses are built here. A fine sheet of water adds to the beauty of this site.

BOYNE PARK is leading out of Mount Ephraim near the Mount Ephraim Hotel, and is a pleasant residential locality.

BROADWATER DOWN is a district which stretches from the Frant Road to the Eridge Road, a distance exceeding a mile. Here are many of the finest and best situated mansions in Tunbridge Wells. The site is lofty and airy, and commands very fine views towards the north and west. About the middle of Broadwater Down stands the church dedicated to St. Mark.

CALVERLEY PARK was the first laid out and built on. It has three entrances or lodges to it, severally named Farnborough Lodge, adjacent to Grove Hill and Camden Park; Victoria Lodge, next to the Calverley Hotel; and Keston Lodge, in the Calverley Road, opposite to Calverley Park Gardens and the Lansdowne Road. This retired and beautiful Park contains twenty-four detached villas, each having lawns, gardens, and plantations. The enclosure in front, enriched with evergreens and choice flowers (consisting of some twenty acres of undulating ground) adds much to the general effect of the place. There are here some splendid masses of rhododendron shrubs.

CALVERLEY PARK CRESCENT, a handsome row of buildings with a pretty lawn in front, adjoins the Victoria Lodge.

CALVERLEY PARK GARDENS is the name of a laurel-bordered road fringed with elegant and substantial villas, each standing in a pretty garden. This road joins the Pembury or Calverley Fair Mile Road, where are several noble mansions.

CAMDEN PARK is built upon land belonging to the Marquis Camden, and is situate at the top of Grove Hill Road, an ascent commencing in High Street, opposite the Railway Station.

The Park contains a few residences of superior character. Grove Hill Road has on its right several new streets, where are some comfortable middle-class residences.

CULVERDEN PARK is an estate on the west side of St. John's Road, on which will be found some very good houses.

FERNDALE, which is approached by the road next St. James's Church, is a very retired and pretty road, bordered by large and commodious houses, which command fine views towards the north.

HUNGERSHALL PARK is parallel with Nevill Park, but more in the valley, and owned by the same proprietor. The road leading to the High Rocks runs through it.

LINDEN PARK, near the end of the Pantiles, overlooking the Common, has some well-built and picturesque residences, from which can be had fine views of the Common and surrounding country.

MADEIRA PARK is at the top of Mount Sion. Modern and convenient residences are being built here, and the situation being convenient to the town and the aspect all that is desirable, it is fast becoming an attractive part to reside in.

MOLYNEUX PARK is a new district pleasantly situated between Bishop's Down and Mount Ephraim. The houses are modern in style, suitable for well-to-do families. It was formerly the private grounds attached to Earl's Court, for many years the residence of the late Hon. F. G. Molyneux.

NEVILL PARK, the entrance to which is on the Common, near Bishop's Down, is the site upon which many handsome detached houses have been erected, overlooking the Common, Hungershall Park, the Eridge Woods, and a vast expanse of prospect. It belongs to the Marquess of Abergavenny, who permits a thoroughfare for foot passengers to Rusthall.

SANDOWN PARK lies a mile and a-half from the town, between the Pembury Road and Blackhurst Lane; and has, from its elevated position and magnificent views become favourite building ground. A beautiful house, a reproduction of an Old English Tudor mansion, is the most noticeable ornament of this Park.

SANDROCK ROAD contains several well-situated and handsome houses, each standing in its own grounds.

WOODBURY PARK, on the Lew, on the east side of St. John's Road, comprehends about sixty acres, and here many houses have, during the last few years, been erected.

It will be seen from this enumeration, that families intending to make Tunbridge Wells their place of residence, will have no difficulty in finding a locality very much to their special taste.

BATHS.

In most inland watering-places it has always been customary to combine the external with the internal application of the healing, cleansing fluid. This has been and is notably the case with Bath. Whether it is owing to comparative scarcity of water, or to the peculiar social habits of the place, or merely to the confidence felt in the virtues of the chalybeate, it would be difficult to say, but certain it is that bathing has not at any period held that place in the estimation of visitors to Tunbridge Wells which might have been expected. Still, there have been baths for more than a century and a-half, though none has remained in use for any lengthened period.

In 1708 was constructed the cold bath at Rusthall, at a great expense, by a Mr. James Long. It was "supplied with the finest rock water from the neighbouring hills," was "adorned with amusing water-works," and had "a handsome and convenient house over it, in every room of which was something

curious, calculated to divert and surprise the company." The most beautiful situation, the elegant gardens with fountains and other ornaments, made the cold bath a favourite rendezvous with the company. Even after all that was ornamental had gone to decay, a plainer bath house was erected, and late in the last century the bath was regularly used and appreciated.

It seems that Rusthall was supplanted in favour as a place for excursion and social enjoyment by the High Rocks, and that these in their turn were, at the beginning of this century, deserted for a pretty lake with gardens, beyond Hamsell Bridge, which is still in existence, and belongs now to the Goldsmiths' Company, but is almost unknown to the visitors of to-day.

The baths at Rusthall having been permitted to fall into neglect and decay, about the year 1780 another cold bath was erected about a furlong from the walks, near the present South Eastern Railway Station. The nearness of this bath to the wells, the neatness of its fitting up, and what was then its "pretty, retired situation," gave a promise of decided success, which, however, was for some cause or other, not completely realized.

The next succeeding effort to supply this want shall be described by Mr. Amsinck, who wrote, in 1810 :—

It had been "suggested that some benefit might be derived "from baths composed of the mineral water, and a desire mani- "fested itself on the part of many of the inhabitants to embark "in an undertaking to this effect. Mrs. Shorey, however, as lady "of the manor, put in her exclusive claim to the advantages of "the undertaking . . . . and erected [about 1804] the present "handsome edifice, on the site of the ancient enclosure. Cold "and warm, vapour and shower baths, are herein contained ; all "excellent in their kind and well appointed. The well still "retains its ancient situation, though better protected, in front "of the building ; but, in a handsome room, facing the Parade,

"the same water is supplied from a pump, for those who prefer "that method of taking it. Over this pump room and the baths "are various comfortable apartments; intended for the accom- "modation of invalids with small establishments, who might "wish to make constant use of the baths."

Partly owing to the small supply yielded by the spring, these chalybeate baths fell into disuse, and their site is now occupied by a shop.

There is set apart for swimmers, and those generally who are fond of cold-water bathing, a fine piece of water at the bottom of Camden Road, nearly one hundred yards in length. This is a reservoir formerly used for storing the water of Jack Wood Spring, which was then largely used by the inhabitants, to whose houses it was laid on. It is open to the air, but so far below the level of the ground as to be completely sheltered and private. The entrance is from *within* the Recreation Ground. The depth of the water varies from three to ten feet. There is a large number of convenient dressing boxes, and platforms and spring-boards from which to dive. An experienced swimming master is constantly in attendance during the summer months, when only the bath is open. The charge is small for an occasional visit, and proportionately so for a season ticket. In either July or August of each year, a Swimming Fête is held at the bath, and the weekly Polo Matches attract a large company of spectators.

Medicated, Sulphur, Turkish and other warm baths may be obtained at the Spa Hotel, Bishop's Down. They will be found most conveniently fitted up, and experienced attendants (male and female) are employed by the proprietors.

It is to be hoped that ere long the Town Authorities will see fit to erect and maintain efficient warm baths as well as a tepid covered swimming bath, both being very much needed.

PUBLIC RECREATION GROUND.

Near the Grosvenor Bridge is the New Recreation Ground, the greater part of which was purchased and generously presented to the town by J. Stone-Wigg, Esq., J.P., the first Mayor. It has been tastefully laid out in the usual park-like style, with ornamental water, flower beds, etc., making it as attractive as possible. Good views of the country north of the town are obtained from this spot, and to those who live within a walking distance it is a great boon.

THE GROSVENOR BRIDGE.

The town being most inconveniently divided by the South Eastern Railway, a handsome Bridge has been built by the Local Authorities, at a cost of about £10,000, and spans the rail from the bottom of Quarry Road to the Upper Grosvenor Road. It has ample width for vehicular and pedestrial traffic, and was built from designs prepared by the late Mr. W. Brentnall, C.E., formerly Borough Surveyor. The piers and approaches are constructed of red and black bricks and stone, and the spans over the railway, of iron. It was publicly opened March 7th, 1883, by Mrs. J. Stone-Wigg.

THE TOWN HALL

is a neat structure, built of the sandstone of the neighbourhood, and stands in the Calverley Road. It was originally designed for a market place, but is now the property of the Corporation, who have added a very handsome Council Chamber, where the monthly meetings of the Council are held. There are also offices for the town clerk, borough surveyor, collector and other officers. Here is also the Police Station. The large room is used by the magistrates in petty sessions, and by the judge of the county court upon his periodical visits. It is also frequently used for meetings, and other purposes of a public nature.

THE GREAT HALL AND PUBLIC ROOMS.

A Company was formed some years since, with a capital of £10,000, for the purpose of erecting "a Public Hall for "Concerts, Public Meetings, Exhibitions, Horticultural Fêtes, "Sales of Property, with rooms suitable for a Club, Baths, "Lectures, Refreshments, or other purposes." A central site was procured in the Calverley Hotel grounds, opposite the South



The Great Hall and Public Rooms.

Eastern Railway Stations; and a building was erected which is an attraction, a convenience, and an ornament to the town. The large hall is 100ft. in length by 42ft. in width, and is 31ft. high in the centre. It is the most central building in the town, and where now the principal entertainments take place, and will seat from 600 to 700 people. Applications for hiring the hall should be made to the agent, Mr. R. Pelton, the Pantiles

Library. The two wings are let—the upper one is occupied by Mr. Percy Lankester, and is fitted up in the most comfortable and complete way as a high-class photographic studio. The lower wing is used as a well-furnished restaurant, with dining, tea, and cloak rooms. The TUNBRIDGE WELLS CLUB occupies the whole of the first floor of the centre portion of the building, which is approached through the main entrance. There will be found a comfortably-furnished club room, card room, billiard room, reading room, and other conveniences usually to be had at a first-rate club-house. Information as to membership may be had at the rooms of the Hon. Sec., F. W. Elers, Esq.

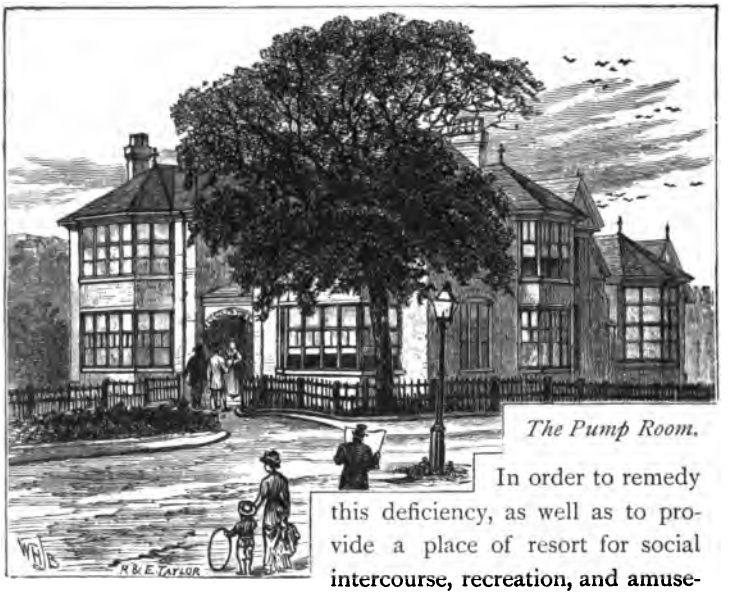
The SUSSEX ASSEMBLY ROOMS may be regarded as the lineal descendant of those which, as has already been told, occupied so important a position in the social life of old Tunbridge Wells. They are situated in the rear of what was formerly the Royal Sussex Hotel.

The CORN EXCHANGE is situated on the east of the Pantiles, adjoining the late Sussex Hotel. A Corn-market is held here every Friday afternoon. The hall is used principally by the farmers and dealers, who have stands and other conveniences for conducting their business. This building was formerly a theatre.*

THE PUMP ROOM AND NEVILL CLUB.

The accommodation for visitors drinking the chalybeate water has hitherto been somewhat meagre and primitive.

* Dowton, the comedian, made his *début* at the original theatre occupying this site, on September 24th, 1791, as *Rover*, in the comedy of "*Wild Oats*." Mrs. Baker, the lessee, in 1801, took down the old theatre, building a more commodious one, which was opened in the following year. Here, while unknown to fame, in the autumn of 1806, Edmund Kean played at a salary of less than a pound a week, the great tragedian being content to do the "general utility" work. Dowton succeeded Mrs. Baker as lessee; and, in 1838, Sloman, the comic vocalist, and *Improvisateur*, became manager. Paganinni, Dibdin, T. P. Cooke, Madame Vestris, Harley, and other theatrical celebrities have, from time to time, appeared here, and the Publisher of this Guide has many of the old Play Bills with these names in, that were printed on the Pantiles by Mr. Clifford, then the only printer in the neighbourhood. The theatre was closed in 1843.



The Pump Room.

In order to remedy this deficiency, as well as to provide a place of resort for social intercourse, recreation, and amusement, a Company was formed and has built the commodious and handsome premises at the west end of the Pantiles.

The chalybeate water may be drunk here as well as beneath the old-fashioned portico at the east end of the Pantiles, and the charge, which includes the entrance to the spacious and very pleasant reading room and the use of the papers, periodicals, chess, draughts, etc., upon the tables, is twopence for each visitor, or one shilling for a book containing eight admissions. The large room may be hired for lectures, concerts, meetings, balls, etc. The Secretary is Mr. Groves, 14, Pantiles.

The Nevill Club occupies the large reading rooms on the right as you enter, and the billiard room and smoking rooms are above. The terms for membership may be learnt from Mr. Collins, junr., Secretary, 73, High Street. On the first floor

is a handsomely-appointed Masonic Lodge, the home of the "Holmesdale Lodge, No. 874," which is one of the most complete in the province, and connected with this is a Chapter and a Lodge of Mark Masons. "The Pantiles Lodge, No. 2,200," also meets here. The members of the Farmers' Club hold their meetings every Friday in a room to the left of the entrance, on the ground floor.

The FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' HALL is situated in the Camden Road, and accommodates the mutual and benevolent societies established for the benefit of the working classes, as well as a Working Men's Club. It contains lecture hall, reading room, and library, refreshment rooms and bar, etc., etc.

The MECHANICS' INSTITUTE is a spacious and handsome building, situated in the Dudley Road. It was opened on the 6th November, 1872. The premises comprise a large reading room, well supplied with newspapers and magazines, a very good and well-conducted library, and several excellent class rooms. It is lit by electric light.

LIBRARIES AND LITERARY SOCIETIES.

The largest collection of books is to be found in the rooms of the LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND USEFUL KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY, on the Pantiles. The Library numbers about 4,000 volumes, and is used by members only, both for reference and for home reading. Here is also a good reading room well supplied with newspapers, magazines, and reviews. Terms of subscription may be had of the Librarian, Mr. E. H. Strange, 16, Eridge Road, or from the Sub-Librarian, at the rooms.

The NATURAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY meets also in these rooms. Lectures are given and meetings held during the winter months, and excursions made during the

summer to places of interest in the neighbourhood. An interesting exhibition of wild flowers, etc., may always be seen at the entrance to the rooms on the Pantiles. Secretary—W. Carter, Esq., M.A., 25, Church Road.

There are parochial and congregational Libraries, largely of a religious character, attached to the several churches and chapels of the town.

Visitors will also find a good SUBSCRIPTION AND CIRCULATING LIBRARY at Pelton's on the Pantiles.



New General Post Office.

This building is erected in Vale Royal, and is a most convenient structure for carrying on the postal and telegraphic business of this town. It is to be regretted that the main front has not been planned so that it faced the Common, it would then have formed a more imposing architectural feature.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

is a handsome building of sandstone, fronting the Grosvenor Road. During the years 1869 and 1870, it was almost entirely rebuilt, on a plan in accordance with the principles of modern hospital treatment. There is now accommodation for about forty in-patients, with every arrangement for their comfort and convalescence. Through the munificence of a lady residing in the town, a further enlargement has taken place, adding considerably to the present accommodation. The care of the inmates is entrusted to a house-surgeon and four visiting surgeons, besides consulting physicians; and the domestic arrangements are superintended by an experienced matron. As a Dispensary also, this Institution is highly valued by the poorer inhabitants of the town. Yearly subscribers of half-a-guinea, or donors of five guineas, are always entitled to have one out-patient on the books. Yearly subscribers of one guinea, or donors of ten guineas, take position as governors, and are privileged to nominate one in-patient per annum, and two out-patients on the books at all times.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL,

situated in the Upper Grosvenor Road, is opened for both in-patients and out-patients. Physicians—Drs. Neild and Pincott. Secretary—Mr. F. J. Whiteley, 36, Mount Pleasant.

THE EYE, EAR AND THROAT HOSPITAL,

which is supported by voluntary contributions, and under the superintendence of the Surgeon, G. Abbott, Esq., occupies part of the once Royal Sussex Hotel, on the Pantiles, and has now ample accommodation for both in and out patients. Secretary—Mr. Carter, 3, Pantiles.

THE CONVALESCENT HOME

for children is a handsome new building lately erected at Hawkenbury, and admirably adapted for the benevolent purpose for which it is intended. It may be inspected by visitors, and is supported by voluntary subscriptions.

There are local branches in the town of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., both having rooms on Mount Pleasant, and of all the large London Religious Societies; also a Volunteer Fire Brigade, a Salvage Corps, and an Ambulance Corps.

SCHOOLS.

There are in Tunbridge Wells several high-class schools for the education of the sons and daughters of gentlemen. In some establishments young gentlemen are especially prepared for the army examinations.

Excellent middle-class schools are conducted by teachers of undoubted qualifications.

For the children of the artisan and labouring population, considerable provision is made. There is no school-board, but many schools are in receipt of the Government grant, and enjoy the benefit of Government inspection. Among these may be mentioned—King Charles the Martyr boys' school; the Victoria school; the Grosvenor British school; Christ Church school; St. James' school; the Albion Road school; St. John's school; St. Mark's school; St. Peter's school; St. Barnabas' school; St. Paul's school, etc.

SKINNERS' MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

The handsome school and Head Master's house belonging to this Foundation, adjoining the Southborough Road, in the district parish of St. John, are erected on a site presented by the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells. The cost of the buildings

was defrayed out of the Endowment Fund, which consisted of £10,000, set apart from certain ancient Charities, known as Thomas Hunt's and Lawrence Atwell's, Citizens and Skinners of the City of London, supplemented by a like sum of £10,000, given by the Worshipful Company of Skinners, of London, bringing the amount up to £20,000. For a fee of £2 18s. 4d. per term for boys under eleven, and £3 10s. per term for boys over eleven, payable in advance, which includes cost of tuition in the prescribed subjects of instruction, the use of books and stationery, and the maintenance of school games and a school library, any boy from the age of eight to seventeen may be educated in the following subjects: Divinity, reading, writing and arithmetic, geography and history, English grammar, composition and literature, mathematics, book-keeping and mensuration, shorthand, Latin, French and German, natural science, drawing, vocal music and drill. There are scholarships in the form of exemption, total or partial, from the payment of tuition fees. Also the following Exhibitions and Scholarships open to boys leaving the school: (a) A Hunt and Atwell Exhibition is offered for competition annually to all boys who are being and have for not less than two years been educated at the school. It is tenable for three years at any place of higher education approved by the Governors, and its value is £35 a year. (b) Two Skinners' Scholarships are offered for competition annually to all boys under sixteen who are being and have for not less than two years been educated at the school. They are tenable at Tonbridge School for three years, and are of the value of £30 per annum each. Boys must either reside with their parents, guardians, or near relations; or can be boarded with the Head Master or in any of the official boarding-houses on the following terms: boys under eleven,

£12 per term, over eleven, £14 per term, which includes board, washing, seat at church, gymnasium, cricket, carpentry and swimming. All boys are required to wear the school cap. The Head Master is Rev. F. G. Knott, M.A., to whom applications for admission should be sent, at the School House, St. John's Road.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT TONBRIDGE is also available for boys whose parents can make arrangements with the Head Master for boarding them as day boarders, and who do not object to the short railway journey from Tunbridge Wells. For a more detailed notice of this ancient and flourishing public school see account under heading of "Excursion II.—To Tonbridge."

HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

There is now opened, in connection with the Girls' Public Day School Company (limited), a high school for girls, which occupies premises in Mount Sion. A large number of girls receive here a sound and useful course of instruction in literature, science, language, drawing, music, singing, and other branches of education, under the supervision of most experienced class mistresses. The Head Mistress is Miss Julian, to whom application for admission should be addressed.

A KINDERGARTEN connected with this school is open for small children, both boys and girls.

TUNBRIDGE WARE MANUFACTORIES.

As many who visit this town often take away a souvenir, manufactured from Tunbridge Ware, they may be interested in reading something of the industry and skill these apparently small and unimportant articles demand in their production.

The following account of the above manufacture is taken from an article published in the *Sussex Advertiser*, June 1st, 1882, and published by the kind permission of the proprietor. Before insertion in this Guide, it has had the advantage of revision by those practically acquainted with the trade.

Since it has been written, Mr. Hollamby has died, and his workshops were, unfortunately, burnt down. Except as regards Mr. Hollamby and any reference to him, this has not altered the facts, and as the description had the advantage of his revision, the publisher has not thought it well to alter the article. It may here be mentioned that at the present time the largest manufacturers of this Ware in the town are Messrs. Boyce, Brown and Kemp, and their productions may be obtained at the shops which supply these articles. Their manufactory is at 108, Camden Road.

TUNBRIDGE WARE.

"The articles of which we are speaking are probably known to most of our readers. The origin of the history is to some extent obscure. The glass and stone mosaic, which was so much in vogue among the Romans, and was in later centuries almost a speciality of Italy, must have first suggested the design. Hence it is that Italian mosaics, both Florentine and Roman, are so largely copied in Tunbridge Ware. However, even so the Italian art must have had some native industry upon which to be grafted, and it appears that wood-turning was at an early date much practised among the population of Kent and Sussex forests. Miniature tea-sets, nattily turned out of native yew wood, are still a Tunbridge Wells speciality.

"Again, it appears that painting on wood—holly wood to begin with, then sycamore and chestnut—was at an early date a peculiar industry practised

in Tunbridge Wells, and later also in Brighton. The boxes, hand-screens, and similar articles made of white wood, painted in a peculiar and attractive style with flowers, must be familiar to many of our older readers. After a time black wood came into use along with white. It appears that in some shape or other the industry may be traced back to 1685, when, however, only plain articles were manufactured. Later it became usual to burn figures, such as shells, into the wood before varnishing. Next came the painting of flowers. The peculiar mosaic work appears to have been introduced in 1830. Messrs. W. & James Burrows, of Tunbridge Wells, were the first makers of such ware.

"Since their time the industry has made considerable strides in advance, but it has developed concurrently in different ways, discovering characteristically enough in each variety the several sources of its origin. Apart from the mere turning, which is still practised to a small extent by itself, there are two distinct classes of Tunbridge Ware, the one produced by inlaying in single pieces, which is really artists' work; the other by manufacturing wholesale, by an ingenious and laborious process, large blocks which are afterwards sawn into thin mosaic plates. The former process is seen at its best at Mr. T. Barton's establishment, the second at Mr. H. Hollamby's. But in neither factory is either the one process or the other practised exclusively. Mr. Barton makes many beautiful blocks, and even Mr. Hollamby's wholesale manufacture is artistic enough to merit notice on that score alone.

"Both processes have some features in common. They are dependent upon an effective combination and pleasing configuration of different specimens of wood. Most of these have to be kept in stock, and hence one of the larger workshops affords xylopholists the means of almost as exhaustive study as the museum at Kew. At Mr. Barton's establishment the art is studied in detail; the visitor may often find some remarkable *lusus naturæ;* at Mr. Hollamby's the variety is probably greater. There are at present no fewer than 124 different kinds of wood in use, and as the appearance of several of these may be varied by cutting the block in different directions—four or five different effects can thus be produced. The mass of material at disposal is even larger than this number suggests. Most of these specimens are foreign woods, and as a rule the most effective, but our British soil yields some extremely useful varieties, and the industry was probably, at its first beginning, more or less confined to their use. For ordinary purposes about forty varieties are found sufficient. The variety of colouring is perfectly wonderful. Holly supplies a clean white wood, Ebony the well-

known black, finely marked, in larger pieces, with lighter veins. The brightest red, such as may serve for tiles in pictures, is cut from Bar-wood blocks, but this is rather soft. Red ebony, supplied from Natal, is harder and more brilliant. Blood-wood gives, as its name implies, a deep red hue. Green ebony enters into the mixture of colours very freely, supplying an effective olive green, which does admirably for many kinds of foliage. Barberry-wood polishes to a brilliant yellow. Laburnum gives a variety of shades, according to its age, from a dark brown to a light drab. Mulberry is yellow, Rosetta rosy brown, Kingswood a deep brown, approaching purple. Fustic is yellow, Tulip-wood gives a rich marbled red. Palmyra (Palm tree) is spotted and veined, according as it is cut, brown and drab, and very effective. A very striking colour is that supplied by Purple wood, *(Copaifera rubiflora)*, from Guiana, namely, a rich mauve. This is accordingly used in almost every combination. But the most surprising effect of all is produced by a species of green native wood—mostly oak, although the same colour occurs in beech and birch—which goes by the name of 'vegetable malachite.' So far as colour is concerned it deserves this name. Some wood of this description was some years ago exhibited at one of the Horticultural Society's shows at South Kensington, and attracted the particular attention of the Queen. The colour is produced by the growth of a minute Fungus *(helotium æruginosum)*, which spreads its mycelium all through the decayed wood and imparts to it a bright green colour. It is found in Eridge Park and adjacent woods, and has to be collected with some care. The foreign wood mostly finds its way to Tunbridge Wells *vid* Liverpool and London. It is valuable according to its quality, colour, and grain. A peculiar effect is produced by steeping white wood, most commonly birdseye maple, in the chalybeate spring. This produces a grey colour, the result of combination of the tannin of the wood with the iron of the spring, which practically makes ink. The practice of so colouring wood was imported into England from Spa. With such resources at their command, one would imagine that the Tunbridge Ware makers could produce almost any shade or hue. This is partially correct, and it is indeed truly surprising what an amount of colour Mr. Hollamby, for instance, has succeeded in putting into his more recent blocks, such as the views of Bayham Abbey and of the Pantiles, which stand out as if painted with the brush. No wood has, however, yet been found to supply a true *bonâ fide* blue. Nevertheless, by a clever combination of greys, the artists have succeeded in counterfeiting, so to speak, the colour quite sufficiently well,

to cite one instance, for the representation of water. Most of the wood is worked as it comes from the log. Only holly wood, which is much used, has to be previously boiled to withdraw the sap.

"The wood is manipulated in two different ways. Either it is sawn into slices and then cut into shape for one particular use only, which is really wood-mosaic. This is what is done for cube or box-work, or for those clever mosaic-drawings to be seen at Mr. Barton's. Every piece is selected according as the figuring lends itself to a particular shape—say the breast or the wing of a bird, or the leaf of a flower—and the effect is not only telling, but artistic and exceedingly pretty. Or else the wood is sawn first into strips varying in thickness, generally about the substance of cardboard, and then sawn across into very fine sticks, so as to be square at these minute dimensions. Afterwards a pattern is formed of such small sticks or squares, which are bound and glued together, and subsequently sawn across, each delicate slice being used as a veneer to be sunk into other wood. Many of these designs imitated in mosaic are comparatively small; but even these require a considerable amount of labour. The blocks of views demand often many weeks' continuous work. One advantage resulting from this treatment will be at once apparent. It is that the mosaic is not only 'true' —true in colour and true in grain, the glue holding all the diminutive squares well together—but that it is, so to speak, of everlasting wear. When soiled or worn, or bleached, it may be revived by the simple process of polishing. On the other hand, it will be understood that the manufacture demands a great amount of skill and practice. The sticks must be of exactly the proper size, and the selection of colours must be precisely right. Moreover, it is wearying work going on for days or weeks at the same block, cutting strip after strip, or stick after stick, or else piecing the sticks together one by one, glueing them first into strips, afterwards into blocks. The patterns are designed after the manner of Berlin woolwork. Floral patterns are worked off from ready Berlin work-designs, the workman selecting the colours according to taste. The transfer of views to mosaic requires practice and care, and there are artists who lay themselves out especially for this work. Mr. Barton, we believe, makes his own designs, and nothing could be more perfect in this respect than his view of Battle Abbey, which was awarded the first prize in the Industrial Exhibition at Tunbridge Wells in 1864; or the drawing of a brig at sea, which obtained a prize at the Great Exhibition, 'The World's Fair,' in 1851. Mr. Hollamby has a very fine collection of views, from blocks, such as Battle Abbey, Bayham, Eridge, the Pantiles,

Muckross Abbey, Ross Castle, and Shakespeare's house at Stratford-on-Avon. The last-named view attracted the attention of the Prince of Wales at the late Bath and West of England Show at Tunbridge Wells, and was much admired.

"The mode of procedure in putting the wood together is this. The logs coming to the factory are cut into planks of moderate thickness, handy for use, at the mills. They are then sliced up with circular saws, the saw being worked right through the plank, across the grain, leaving the rings exposed at either end. The finer cuttings are executed according to a gauge, by which the saw is set, and the strips are from time to time checked. A convex saw is employed because it admits of a finer edge being used, producing more perfect work, and avoids waste. For ordinary patterns the length of the sticks used is seven inches. Some are cut at half-length, that is 3½ inches. This means that the block represents a depth of either 7 or 3½ inches of solid pattern, be it border, or medallion, or view, long or short, wide or narrow, to be cut up into leaves of the thickness of thin cardboard, as there may be demand for them. Where the pattern is small or plain, this slicing is simple enough, say for a ruler, or the lid of a small box. Where there are larger objects to be dealt with more care is required, at any rate in the further manipulation, especially when the pattern has to be cut out of the piece—for instance in floral designs, which often run out into very fine tendrils—in very fragile forms, to be let into other wood. Where this is required, the thin mosaic is glued upon paper, and this again is glued upon the piece of veneer, which is to form the ground. The pattern is then carefully cut out with a fret-saw, which is delicate work. The layer of paper between the two cuttings of wood admits of the pattern being easily separated by means of a knife, and then it is ready for placing upon, say a box-lid, or other articles. The round patterns are the oldest, and perhaps the most easy to manipulate. At an early period long sticks were made, of a less elaborate pattern than at present, and cut up for ornaments. Among other things we now find the Tunbridge Ware used for buttons, which are made up at Birmingham. Sometimes the round pieces are used solid and turned into shape on the lathe. Otherwise, and as a rule, the Ware is merely employed for ornament, the articles which it is intended to embellish being prepared by cabinet makers in a separate department. Of such articles there are a great variety, and there is potentially no limit to their number. Writing desks, workboxes, bookslides, blotting books, inkstands, and a great variety of such-like objects are the articles most in use, but there

are many others of more elaborate construction. Penholders are also a favourite article. These are made first in square form, and then turned down round. The polishing has to be carefully executed, and the Ware takes a very good polish. Tunbridge Ware is also much used as a frame or border for handscreens, writing-case covers, and other articles to be further embellished by hand-painting. For such purposes sycamore wood is a favourite material; or for articles requiring lightness, horse-chestnut. In the workshop where the wood is cut and the patterns are made, the glue-pot is kept constantly at hand, and a hot stone plate is also kept ready, upon which to glue the pieces together. If glued hot, they hold the better. They have then to be pressed and dried.

"At one time this remarkable industry employed a considerable number of hands, but fashion has changed, and the production is confined to a few makers. As before mentioned, Messrs. Boyce & Co. are the largest makers and do a wholesale trade supplying shops here and elsewhere. Mr. Barton's out-put of work is naturally less, his sale being restricted, we believe, to the proprietor's own sale-rooms on Mount Ephraim; but his productions are remarkable for their fine and artistic finish. Some of the wood mosaics, representing principally birds and flowers, are simply charming.

"Visitors to Tunbridge Wells, we believe, rarely quit the place without some article of this peculiar ware with them; and it will be a legitimate and appropriate way of showing their gratitude for the enjoyment which the delightful place can scarcely fail to give them, if they will enlist the patronage of their friends at home in support of an industry, which among our art-loving population, should require no puffing or canvassing."





PLACES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

IT has been mentioned in the foregoing Chronicles that there was no regular religious service, or at all events, no church or chapel, in Tunbridge Wells, until late in the seventeenth century.

THE CHURCH OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR.

At that date the Chapel of Ease, dedicated to King Charles the Martyr, but familiarly known as "the Old Chapel," was built on a site of land conveniently near the wells and the walks, given for the purpose by the Viscountess Purbeck, of Somerhill. The subscription for this erection commenced in 1676, and in 1684 had reached the sum of £1,385. It was certainly used for worship and preaching in the year 1684,* but being found too small to accommodate the visitors, it was almost immediately enlarged, a subscription amounting to £900 having been raised for the purpose between 1688 and 1696. There is no endowment, and the minister has

* "Utque Deus faveat, media inter pocula rite
Sacra Deo facimus; quippe hic posuere Sacellum
Nuper Hydropotae." *Causton* (1684).

always been supported by the voluntary subscriptions of the visitors and the inhabitants.* In old times the custom was to have prayers twice every day, and (as has been mentioned) it was considered fashionable for the visitors to attend church every morning.



Old View of the Chapel.

The quaint old chapel is on the borders of the two counties of Kent and Sussex, and the three parishes of Tonbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant. Indeed, it was often said that the pulpit was in the parish of Speldhurst, the communion table in Tonbridge, and the vestry in Frant! But this is an error; the whole building being in the parish of Tonbridge, in the county of Kent.

It has been very judiciously restored, under the direction of Mr. Christian, architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

* A curious contemporary record of the erection of Tunbridge Wells Chapel exists in a rare volume, containing two sermons preached therein, by the Rev. Dr. Anthony Walker, and dated by him, "From my lodgings near Tunbridge Wells, July 24th, 1684." The full title of this quaint volume is *Fax Fonte Accensa*, Fire out of Water; or, an endeavour "to kindle devotion from the consideration of the Fountains God hath made. Designed "for the benefit of those who use the waters of Tunbridge Wells, the Bath, Epsom, Scar- "borough, Chigwell, Astrop, Northall, etc. Two Sermons preached at New Chappel, by "Tunbridge Wells. With devout meditations of Cardinal Bellarmin upon Fountains of "Waters Also some Forms of Meditations, Prayers, and Thanksgivings, suited to the "occasion. By Anthony Walker, D.D. *O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord; praise Him and "magnify Him for ever.* Song of the Three Children. 1684." In the dedication to Nathanael Haws, citizen of London, and Treasurer of Christ Church Hospital, whose "zeal, cost and pains about the erecting of that commodious, beautiful and elegant "structure of the Chappel we all here enjoy the benefit of," he gratefully acknowledges, he gives us a picture of charity-collecting in that day, saying, "If I could represent your "effigies, in the front of these few sheets, it should be with your green book in your hand, "gratefully receiving, modestly soliciting, and faithfully recording the royal, noble gene- "rous contributions to the pious, useful work, which have amounted to about eleven "hundred pounds, by your prudent care and industry, faithfully expended in the erecting "and adorning of it." He expressed a hope "that in due time, it may be as conveniently "endowed as it is commodiously built, that there may be wells of salvation for the poor "neighbourhood all the year; and if I may without imputation of lightness allude to St. "Paul's expression, *The word may be preached in season and out of* [water] *season.*"



By permission of] *Church of King Charles the Martyr.* [G. Glanville.

The exterior remains almost as before, and although considerable alteration has been made in the interior, the ceiling, which is very remarkable, being covered with floral mouldings most unusual in a place of worship, is left untouched, and thus the unique character of the "Old Chapel" partially preserved. On July 18th, 1887, this place of worship was consecrated by the late suffragan Bishop of Dover, Dr. Parry, and an ecclesiastical

In one of these sermons the preacher urges contributions towards settling "a decent "maintenance for an able minister constantly to officiate in it." He says, "'Tis a cer- "tainly desolate place in the depth of winter; still, notwithstanding the many fair houses "which are lately built, and the badness of the ways, and distance of the churches, I "fear, occasions in many too great a neglect of God's worship and their own souls. Had "they an able minister to reside constantly among them, the woe of dwelling in this "Mesech would be much abated, and these deserts would become a Mount Sion, and "these tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon, an emblem of Jerusalem." What need there was of religious admonitions appears from this very sermon, in which the preacher feels it his duty to dissuade his fashionable and noble hearers from the custom of profane swearing, and begs them, out of deference to the Almighty's Majesty, "not "to continue their gaming upon the very spot, in time of public prayer!"

district is now alloted to it. The school buildings have been recently much enlarged. Holy Communion every Sunday at 8 a.m.; first and third Sunday after morning service; every Thursday and on Saints' Days at 11. Sunday services at 11 and 6.30; third Sunday at 3 (Children's service and Baptisms). Wednesdays at 11 and 7.30; other days at 11 a.m. The Rev. L. S. Tugwell, M.A., is the vicar. Hymns Ancient and Modern used.

Within the memory of many of the inhabitants, the Chapel of Ease was the only place of worship in Tunbridge Wells belonging to the Established Church; but during the last fifty years very many additions have been made to the religious accommodation of the place. Few towns of the same population have so large a number of sittings provided in the churches and chapels.

CHRIST CHURCH,

on the east side of High Street, was consecrated on the 9th of May, 1841, the first stone having been laid so far back as the 9th of September, 1835. The property was purchased by the Rev. Thomas Ward Franklyn, for a sum exceeding £8,500. In 1856, this gentleman munificently assigned the whole to the district. The accommodation being found inadequate to the demand, galleries were added in the summer of 1862. Exterior alterations were afterwards made, and a chancel and vestry have been added. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, third Sunday in the month, at 3.15, and last Sunday at 3 (Children's service); evening at 6.30. Week-day services: Holy days, morning, 11; Wednesday evening, 7.15. Holy Communion is administered on the first and third Sundays in each month, at 11 o'clock service; second and fifth

Sundays at 8 a.m.; fourth Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.; and (for invalids) first Friday at 12 noon. Hymns Ancient and Modern are used. The Rev. J. Campbell Strickland, D.D., is the vicar.

TRINITY CHURCH,

situated in Church Road, on Mount Pleasant, was consecrated in September, 1829, the first stone having been laid on the



Trinity Church.

17th of August, 1827, the Duchess of Kent's Birthday. The architect was Mr. Decimus Burton; the builder, Mr. Barrett, of Tunbridge Wells. The entire fabric originally cost £12,000, but considerable improvements have since been made. The stone used in its construction was obtained from Calverley Quarry, the stone of which is employed in many other of the public and private edifices of the town. The Calverley Quarry is the only one in Kent or Sussex whose produce was named in

the report recommending the selections of stone for building the new Houses of Parliament. Of the 1,500 sittings in this church, 800 are free. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, 3; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Wednesday morning, 11; evening, 7.30. Friday morning, 12. Holy Communion is administered on the first Sunday in each month at 11 a.m.; second Sunday, 8 a.m. and 8 p m.; third Sunday, 3 p.m.; fourth Sunday, 8 p.m., and fifth Sunday, 8 a.m. The hymn book in use is Bickersteth's Hymnal Companion (revised edition). The Rev. D. J. Stather Hunt, M.A., is the vicar.

ST. MARK'S, BROADWATER DOWN.

To meet the wants of this district, the late Earl of Abergavenny, in the most liberal manner, at his sole cost, erected a very handsome church, with a vicarage-house attached to it (now let as a private residence), both built from the design and under the superintendence of R. L. Roumieu, F.R.S.B.A. The first stone of this edifice, which is dedicated to St. Mark, was laid on the 20th of October, 1864, by the then Countess of Abergavenny, and the building was opened for Divine Service on the 21st of August, 1866. The style is the French Gothic of the fourteenth century, and it is built of stone from the Earl's quarries, with Bath stone for the carved work. The tower, together with the slender spire with which it is surmounted, is above 130ft. high, and is visible from almost every eminence within many miles. The church has double transepts, the smaller ones forming an organ chamber on one side, and a screened-off vestry on the other. The choir is raised by several steps above the nave, and the walls of the chancel are decorated with encaustic tiles and mosaics; two wall paintings in outline, on the

sides, represent Christ led to crucifixion, and His last entry into Jerusalem. The transept windows are of stained glass, one representing the four major Prophets and the other the four Evangelists. They are a memorial to the late Earl. The pulpit and font are of beautifully-carved Caen stone. The roof is of open timber. The interior, which is very original, has a pleasing effect, and is a very good specimen of the French Gothic of that date, which stands pre-eminent for its beauty, both of detail and general proportion. It is lit with electric light. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Wednesday at 11; Friday at 5 p.m. (during the winter Wednesdays and Fridays at 11.30). Baptisms and Children's service on the last Sunday of the month at 3.30 p.m. Holy Communion after morning service on the second and last Sundays of each month; on other Sundays at 8 a.m.; during the winter at 8.30 a.m. Hymnal Companion (third edition) is used. The Rev. J. H. Townsend, D.D., is the vicar and surrogate.



St. Mark's Church.

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH

is erected in Stanley Road. The foundation stone was laid on May 11th, 1887, by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, one of the trustees of the living, and was consecrated by the Suffragan Bishop of Dover, on May 18th, 1893. The building is of red brick and stone, from the designs of Messrs. J. E. R. and



By permission of] *St. Barnabas' Church.* [G. Glanville

J. P. Cutts, architects, of London. It is estimated that the cost of the church, when complete with tower and spire, will amount to over £17,000. Accommodation is provided for nearly 1,000; all seats being free. Sundays: Holy Communion (choral) at 8 a.m. and 11.15 a.m.; Litany, 10.15 a.m.; Matins, 10.30 a.m.; Children's Service, 3.30 p.m.; Evensong and sermon, 6.30 p.m. Holy days: Communion (choral) at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Matins, 10.30 a.m.; Evensong, 7.30 p.m.

Week-days: Holy Communion at 8 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. The Rev. H. S. Iredell, M.A., is the vicar. Hymns Ancient and Modern.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,

Sandrock Road, Calverley Plain, erected to meet the necessities



By permission of] *St. James's Church.* [G. Glanville.

of this increasing neighbourhood, at a cost of £6,000, was opened on May 15th, 1862. Of the 1,050 sittings which this church contains, about 400 are free. The wood and stone used in its construction were presented by Messrs. Ward, of the Calverley Estate. It was built after the very meritorious design of Ewan Christian, Esq., of Whitehall Place, Westminster, and has recently had an additional aisle built. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, 3.30; evening, 6.30. Holy Com-

munion, 8 a.m.; also first and third Sundays, 12.30. Baptisms, second and fourth Sundays, 4.15. Holy days: Communion at 8; also on the greater festivals at 12.30; morning prayer, 12; evening prayer, 5.30. Week-days: evening prayer daily, except Wednesdays, 5.30; Wednesdays and Fridays, morning prayer and Litany, 12; Wednesdays, evening prayer and sermon, 7.30. Hymns Ancient and Modern are used. The Rev. A. T. Scott, M.A., is the vicar.

ST. PETER'S

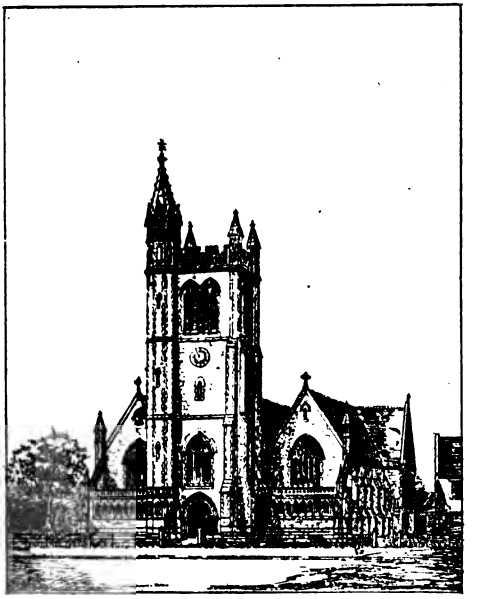
is a new and handsome Gothic church, erected during 1874-5, in Windmill Fields, from designs and plans of the architects, Messrs. Cronk, and has recently been considerably enlarged. This is the only church in Tunbridge Wells which possesses a peal of bells. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Service for the Young, second Sunday in the month, 3 p.m. Men's first Sunday in the month, 3.30 p.m. Week-day service: Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion is administered on the first Sunday in the month after morning service; third Sunday, after evening service; fourth Sunday at 8 a.m.; fifth Sunday, after evening service. Hymnal Companion (last edition) is the book used. The Rev. C. Courtenay, M.A., is the vicar.

There is a neat EPISCOPAL CHAPEL on the Forest Road, near Hawkenbury, belonging to St. Peter's parish.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

on St. John's Road, was opened in January, 1858. The freehold ground upon which this church and the vicarage stand, was the liberal gift of the Conservative Land Society, some of the stone being presented by Mrs. Fisher, late of Great Culverden. It is in the Early English style, and is constructed of rag stone, with Bath stone dressings. Mr. Gough, of

Lancaster Place, London, was the architect. The original expense of its erection was nearly £3,000, but it has been twice enlarged, and is now under extensive alterations to increase the accommodation. It will then seat over 1,000 worshippers. Sunday services: morning 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services Wednesdays, 7.30 Fridays, 11.30. Holy Communion after morning service, first Sunday in the month; second, fourth and fifth Sundays at 8 a.m.; third Sunday at close of evening service. Baptisms on the second Sunday in the month at 4 p.m. Service for Children, second Sunday in the month at 3; for Women, third Sunday at 3; for Men, fourth Sunday at 3. Bickersteth's Hymnal Companion (last edition) is used. The Rev. H. E. Eardley, M.A., is the vicar.



St. John's Church.

ST. PAUL'S, RUSTHALL,

stands on a conspicuous site near the road leading over Rusthall Common, and its tower is quite a landmark, being seen from almost every direction at great distances. The church

was consecrated in August, 1850, and originally accommodated 520 persons; but the aisle which was subsequently added, largely increased the capacity of the building. Its architecture is much and justly admired. The graveyard is a quiet and attractive spot, and contains many elegant and costly tombs. "The first "interment was that of Charlotte Jeffrey Empson, and a few "years after, her father, William Empson, son-in-law of Lord "Jeffrey." The twelfth Earl of Buchan, William Selwyn, Q.C.,



St. Paul's, Rusthall.

and George R. Porter, are among the notable persons buried here. A very beautiful reredos has been presented to this church, by J. Stone-Wigg, Esq. It was designed by Jo. Norton, Esq., architect, and executed by Mr. Farmer, of Westminster Road. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, 3.30; evening, 6.30. Week-days: Litany every Wednesday and Friday at 12 noon. Holy Communion, 8 a.m., every Sunday; fourth Sunday in the month, 10 a.m.; first and third Sundays in the month after morning prayer. Baptisms on the last Sunday of the month at afternoon service. Hymns Ancient and Modern

are used. The Rev. F. F. Walrond, M.A. (one of the Six Preachers of Canterbury Cathedral) is the vicar.

There is a neat Parish Room, where services are held, at the lower end of the Common near the old Workhouse.

SOUTHBOROUGH.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.—This is the parish church, and is situated on the Common. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, 3; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Wednesday evening, 7; Saints' days and on Fridays, 12 noon. The Hymnal Companion (second edition) is used. The Rev. T. Graham, M.A., is the vicar.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH.—This neat edifice stands in Pennington Road, and was the gift of the late Mrs. Pugh. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Wednesday morning, 11.30; Friday evening, 6.30. Saints' days, 11.30 a.m. The Hymnal Companion (second edition) is used. The Rev. E. A. B. Bockett, M.A., is the vicar.

CHRIST CHURCH, standing at the end of Holden Park Road, is a chapel of ease to St. Peter's. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day service: Thursday evening, 7. The Hymnal Companion (second edition) is used. Curate-in-charge, Rev. J. Agg-Large, B.A. A parsonage adjoins the church.

A Mission Church, dedicated to St. Matthew, is built on the High Brooms Estate to accommodate an increasing population, mostly of the labouring class, and is attached to the parish of St. Peter's, Southborough. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day service: Wednesday evening, 7.15. Curate-in-charge, Rev. H. G. Hooton, M.A.

THE HISTORY OF NONCONFORMITY in Tunbridge Wells is so curious as to deserve a passing notice. During the last century,

congregations of each of the three denominations of Protestant Dissenters existed in the place; and singularly enough, every one of these congregations became extinct.*

* A Baptist Society was formed of persons residing at Speldhurst and Pembury, as early as 1646. The seat of the church was removed to Tunbridge Wells in 1733, when a meeting-house was built on Mount Ephraim, where a flourishing Society assembled for many years. The succession of pastors is still known: it is to be found in a MS. of Walter Wilson's, in Dr. Williams' Library. The Society became extinct in 1813, with the death of the last pastor, Joseph Haynes. It appears to have lapsed into Arianism. The celebrated William Whiston was a hearer of Matthias Copper, one of the pastors. Meeting Mr. Copper once at the Wells, in the presence of the Bishop of London, Whiston, accosting his Lordship, said: "This is, my lord, an archbishop on true Apostolical principles," alluding to his being a messenger as well as an elder of the General Baptist Churches It is recorded of Joseph Haynes, the last pastor, that Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, would, in his morning walk over Mount Ephraim, sometimes look in upon him, conversing freely on the Athanasian Creed, Adult Baptism, and other topics of controversial theology.

During the whole of the last century a Presbyterian congregation existed, which, according to tradition, met at first in a ball-room in Mount Ephraim House, the pulpit being a moveable fixture attached to the wainscot by iron hooks. It is believed that in 1712 Dr. Watts preached here. Afterwards the Presbyterians assembled upon Mount Sion. Their meeting-house, which was built in 1720, still remains, and after having been used by the Independents until their new place of worship was erected, for some time was devoted to the instruction of the young in connection with the British School Society. A somewhat distinguished series of ministers occupied the pulpit of the Presbyterian meeting. Humphrey Ditton, an eminent mathematician, and the author of a celebrated argumentative treatise on the Resurrection, was the pastor from about 1700 to about 1710, when delicate health, occasioned by devoted application to his duties, led him to resign his pastorate, and give himself to learned pursuits. He was succeeded by John Archer, who published some masterly sermons, and who died in 1733, as appears from a laudatory epitaph, formerly in Speldhurst Church. In 1729, Dr. Watts preached, probably in this meeting-house, a sermon still to be found in his collected works, entitled "The Vain Refuge of Sinners; or, a meditation on the Rocks near Tunbridge Wells, 1729." The next minister was Thomas Bayes whose pastorate lasted from 1731 to 1752, and who was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a man of very great acquirements in scholarship and in science. William Johnston, a Master of Arts, and an instructor of youth, was Presbyterian minister from 1752 to 1776; his epitaph also may be read in Speldhurst Churchyard. The following ministers were men less known. It is a testimony to the respect entertained for the Presbyterian clergymen of those days, that a subscription book for his benefit lay on the table of the libraries, besides that for the maintenance of his Episcopalian neighbour.

An Independent meeting was open in Tunbridge Wells from 1752 till towards the close of the century. The building has been demolished; it was known as Durham House. The Rev. Samuel Shepherd was minister here from 1752 to 1780, who from his MSS. seems to have been a diligent, ingenious, and useful preacher of the Gospel.

It seems that the introduction of Methodism into Tunbridge Wells, in its two forms—Calvinistic Methodism under the auspices of Lady Huntingdon, and Arminian Methodism by the followers of John Wesley—had some effect upon the decline and extinction of the older dissenting congregations. The warmer and more emotional preaching, thus introduced, competed successfully with the intellectual, scholarly, and quiet teaching of the regular Nonconformists.

MOUNT PLEASANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

stands in a central position on the western side of Mount Pleasant Road, at its junction with the York Road. An Independent congregation was revived in Tunbridge Wells in the year 1830, and occupied for several years the old Presbyterian meeting-house on Mount Sion, which, after having been closed since 1814, was enlarged and repaired at a cost exceeding



Mount Pleasant Congregational Church.

£700, chiefly at the expense of the late Thomas Wilson, Esq. The necessity of providing increased accommodation led to the erection of the present church, which was opened on the 20th of January, 1848. Many alterations and improvements have since been made, and there are seats for 800 persons. The handsome Grecian portico, and the commodious schoolrooms and vestries adjoining, were added in 1866. The interior was completely reconstructed in 1871, and more recently has been renovated, and a fine new organ added, built by Forster and Andrews, of Hull, which was opened on April 12th, 1885. It

contains two manuals and pedal, with twenty speaking stops and four couplers. Upwards of £9,000 have been spent on this substantial building. It has recently been fitted with electric light. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Monday evening, prayer meeting, 7.30; Wednesday evening, 7. The Rev. G. W. Cowper-Smith is the pastor. The Congregational Hymn Book is used.

In connection with this church there is a mission hall in Down Lane, with accommodation for 200 persons. Sunday services: Sunday school, 3 p.m.; public service, 6.30 p.m. Week-day service: Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.

ALBION ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

was erected in 1873, by the liberality of two gentlemen resident in Tunbridge Wells, and is situated in the new district of the town, beyond the Camden Road. It is a neat Gothic structure, and accommodates 400 on the ground floor. It has been much improved by the addition of a gallery and other conveniences. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day service: Wednesday evening, 7.30. Rev. R. Ridler is the minister. The Congregational Hymn Book is used.

The handsome schools adjoining were erected in 1876, at the sole cost of the late J. Remington Mills, Esq.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

is built upon the site of an old and inconvenient edifice, originally erected in 1812. The present chapel is an imposing Gothic structure. There are spacious school and class rooms in the basement, with every modern convenience. The chapel is reached by a flight of steps, at the summit of which is a portico having arches supported by handsome polished granite pillars.

The interior is very neat, the system of lighting is excellent, and the benches are comfortable. The chapel was opened on Whitsun-Monday, 1873. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Thursday, 7 p.m.; Monday, prayer meeting, 7 p.m. Wesley's Hymns are used. The present resident preacher is the Rev. J. Telford.

WESLEYAN MISSION CHAPEL, Hill Street, in connection with the above. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day service: Tuesday evening at 7.

BAPTIST TABERNACLE,

a handsome new chapel, lately erected in Calverley Road, from the design of Messrs. Bedell and Lander, architects, London, and will seat about 650 persons. The Rev. James Smith is pastor. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30. There are schools connected with the above in the rear of the building. Psalms and Hymns of the Baptist Denomination are used.

HANOVER BAPTIST CHAPEL,

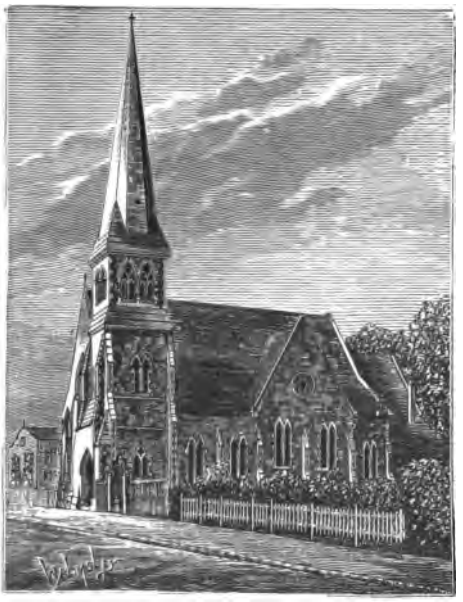
in Hanover Road, was, in November, 1834, dedicated to public worship by a body of Calvinistic Baptists. The original expense of the building was over £1,265, but it has recently been completely re-constructed. Sunday services: morning, 10 and 11; afternoon, 3; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Monday and Thursday evenings, 7. Gadsby's Selection is used.

REHOBOTH BAPTIST CHAPEL,

situated in the rear of Chapel Place. Pastor, Mr. William Smith. Sunday services: morning, 11; afternoon, 3; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7. Gadsby's Selection.

EMMANUEL CHURCH (LADY HUNTINGDON'S)

stands in a commanding situation, facing the London Road, on Mount Ephraim. The congregation originated in the benevolence of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, and the labours of her chaplains. The first chapel was built in 1769, the Rev. George Whitfield preaching the first sermons. It was a quaint structure of weather-board and tiles, which, after being several times enlarged, was taken down in 1870. The present church was built in 1867, from plans by Mr. Wimble of 2, Walbrook. Its spire, rising to the height of 130ft., is a conspicuous landmark. The schools were erected in the autumn of 1870. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day service: Wednesday evening, 7. Holy Communion after morning service, first Sunday in the month; after evening service, third Sunday in the month. Minister, the Rev. J. Mountain.



Emmanuel Church.

There is also a small chapel, connected with Emmanuel Church, at Bell's Yew Green, near Frant Station. Services are conducted by various lay preachers.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL,

in Camden Road, was opened in 1878, upon the site of a small and inconvenient edifice. The present is a very roomy and cheerful place of worship, and will accommodate 450 persons. Sunday services: morning, 11; evening, 6.30. Week-day services: Tuesday, 7.30 p.m.; Monday, prayer meeting, 7.30 p.m. The Primitive Methodist Hymn Book is used. Minister, Rev. J. C. Wenn.

SALEM CHAPEL,

a neat edifice near St. John's on the London Road, was erected in 1866, as a place of worship for a Calvinistic congregation. Sunday service: evening, 6.30. Martin's Selection (Portsmouth) and Edwards's Original Selection, are the hymn books used. The Pastor is the Rev. W. T. Turpin.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,

dedicated to St. Augustine, is a handsome stone fabric placed in the Grosvenor Road, at the corner of Hanover Road. On the 17th of July, 1838, it was opened with Pontifical Mass. Its cost was defrayed by subscription. A handsome campanile has been erected at the side of the building to accommodate a clock and bells, which sound at intervals the Westminster chimes. Sittings are provided for nearly 300 persons, the remainder of the church being at the disposal of the poor. Sunday services: morning, Mass, 8.30; High Mass, 11. Evening, Vespers and Benediction, 6.30. Week-day services: morning (daily), Mass, 8, during the summer months, and 8.30 during the winter months; Thursday afternoon, Benediction, 4.30. Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 4.30.

This church is open daily from 12 till 1 in winter, and 4 till 5 in summer.

The Rev. Canon Searle is the priest, who lives in the presbytery adjoining the church.

TRINITY CEMETERY.

When Trinity churchyard was closed, a cemetery was consecrated in 1849. It is situated near St. John's church, and the entrance is in Woodbury Park Road, and is laid out with shrubs, trees, flowers, and evergreens. Among those interred here are Jacob Bell, founder of the Pharmaceutical Society, and Dr. Golding Bird, an eminent London physician. It is now rarely used as a place for burial.

THE PUBLIC CEMETERY

is on Frant Forest. The land, which occupies a lofty position, and commands an extensive and singularly beautiful prospect in every direction, has been, according to custom, planted with shrubs, and is divided into consecrated and unconsecrated sections. Two very pretty chapels have been erected, and a neat entrance lodge.



AMUSEMENTS, &c.,

AT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

SO many people of leisure residing in Tunbridge Wells, and the town being the resort during the season of a large number of visitors, it is well provided with entertainments and amusements of almost every kind, to suit almost every taste.

With regard to *indoor entertainments*, there has been a very marked advance within the last few years. The possession of five or six commodious and handsome public halls renders the town attractive to all classes of caterers for public amusements. Concerts of classical, popular, and vocal music are given by speculators from London, by professional and amateur societies, and by private musicians, as well as under the auspices of local institutions and enterprising tradesmen of the town. Amateur theatrical and operatic performances, and popular entertainments of the amusing modern type, and readings of dramatic and other poetry are frequently given in one or other of the public rooms, and everything of this character which creates a sensation in London is sure to be repeated in Tunbridge Wells.

The town is visited by numerous theatrical companies "on

tour," and any good play that has had a run in Town will be repeated in a very creditable style at the Great Hall.

Hunting may be had in the neighbourhood, there being three packs of Fox Hounds within reach. On the present Marquess of Abergavenny succeeding to the title in 1868, he threw open the whole of his country to the West Kent Fox Hounds, of which his brother the Hon. Ralph Nevill, of Birling Manor, Maidstone, was Master for 30 years, and has been succeeded by Lord George Nevill, his nephew. The Tunbridge Wells district,



which extends from Mayfield, Crowborough, Groombridge and Langton, on the one side, and Wadhurst, Frant, Bayham and Pembury, to Tunbridge Wells on the other side, is hunted twice a week by Lord Henry Nevill, who succeeded Mr. Williams, the Master of the Woodland Pack, now called the Eridge Fox Hounds, which consists of thirty couples, combining the blood of Mr. Tailby's, Lord Coventry's, Hon. M. Rolles', Lord Fitz-Hardinge's, Mr. Garth's, the Belvoir, etc., and specially selected in size for a woodland country, hunting on Tuesdays and Saturdays, thus giving the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells and its neighbourhood three days per week; as on Mondays the West Kent hunt the Penshurst country, which is well within distance. Foxes are extensively preserved all round; and it is very rarely indeed that a blank day is known. The country being of a woodland nature, scent sometimes—and, indeed, frequently—is rather poor in character; which makes it somewhat difficult to keep up the number of kills, in proportion to other packs of hounds. The season generally opens by a lawn meet at Eridge Castle, where all comers are hospitably entertained by the Marquess of Abergavenny. The Surrey Stag Hounds, which hunt on Tuesdays and Saturdays, are generally available by railway.

The kennels are near Red Hill. The nearest meets to Tunbridge Wells are: Edenbridge, twelve miles; Hever, nine miles; Sevenoaks, thirteen miles; East Grinstead, thirteen miles. The Master is Mr. Gregory, and no pains or expense are spared in doing the thing well. The Mid Kent Stag Hounds, which are kennelled at Wateringbury, hunt the country from Farningham to Maidstone and Headcorn; although not quite so large an establishment as the Surrey Stag Hounds, are noted for long and good runs. The Master is Augustus Leney, Esq., of Wateringbury. The Burstow Fox Hounds, which were a distinct pack, hunting partly in Surrey and partly in Sussex, had the misfortune to lose by death their Master, Mr. Gerard Hoare (who had hunted the country for 30 years) in the spring of 1896. Since that the Burstow has amalgamated with the Old Surrey, and now they command a very extensive district, lying midway between London and Tunbridge Wells. In 1883, Mr. Middleton Fitch Kemp, of Fox Bush, Tonbridge, started a pack of Beagles, and was so successful hare hunting that he drafted them, and now has a pack of Harriers second hardly to any in the kingdom. To those enjoying a run on foot most capital sport may be witnessed, and the Master, who is his own huntsman, rarely gives up till dark. An exceedingly good pack of Scratch Harriers are kept at Fordcombe village, four miles from Tunbridge Wells, and hunt once and sometimes twice a week. The meets are within walking distance, and excellent sport is shown. Particulars can always be obtained of Mr. Urquhart, Castle Hotel, who is the Hon. Sec. The stabling accommodation in Tunbridge Wells is of a very superior character. Both the South Eastern, and London, Brighton and South Coast Railways, run convenient trains for those who wish to join the East Sussex Hunt in the district of Hastings, or the South Down Hunt between Uckfield and Brighton.

Shooting may be enjoyed to their heart's content by those who, by favour or purchase, can secure the right to carry a gun over the stubble-fields, and through the well-preserved covers, which are to be found within a few miles of the Wells.

Steeple-Chases.—These races now take place annually on Easter Monday, on a farm at Eridge, within a few minutes' walk of the Station, and close to the Marquess of Abergavenny's park. A member of the Marquess's family usually takes an active interest in the arrangements, and many of the neighbouring gentry ride their own horses, or patronise the sport.

Cricket.—The Cricket Ground on the Common, below Mount Ephraim, is admirably suited to this manly game; and is a spot commanding charming views of the country around. Practice



is going on here every day during the season, and no week passes which does not yield one or more good matches to the lovers of cricket. There is also a large space railed off for cricket and football matches near Mount Edgecumbe. There are several good cricket and football clubs, and all who wish to become members can readily meet with information as to rules and admissions. Two or three of the best Kent County fixtures are decided every year on the splendid ground at the rear of the Angel Inn, at Tonbridge. Frequent trains run from Tunbridge Wells to Tonbridge and back, and as the ground is close to the station, you are able to be on the ground within a quarter of an hour of starting.

There is being prepared and made level a large area of land for the purposes of a first-class cricket ground, football ground and cycling track, and this, when finished (which it will probably

be in 1897) will enable county fixtures to be played in this town. The grounds can be reached from the Pantiles, viâ Cumberland Walk.

Golf.—This popular and ancient game has found a home on Ashdown Forest, and the Links can be reached by rail to Forest Row in less than twenty minutes. The Home Green and Club House being about ten minutes' walk from the station. The Ashdown Forest Golf Club was established in 1889, and now numbers many members. Visitors, if introduced by a member, can enjoy the advantages of the Club upon payment of a fee, per week, as "Green Money." Ashdown Forest provides Links that even an experienced golfer will not despise, and the scenery around is some of the finest in the district. Secretary, Miss Andrews, 6, Nevill Park. There are also Links within the grounds of the Spa—terms and particulars may be obtained from the manager of the hotel. A new club called the Culverden Golf Club has Links near the Culverden Estate, St. John's. Secretary, Mr. H. P. C. Hare, The Wigwam, Boyne Park.



The social games of *Lawn Tennis*, *Croquet*, *etc.*, have been hitherto played chiefly in private grounds, in many of which lawn tennis parties are one of the main attractions of the summer season. Excellent courts, pleasantly situated, will be found in the Frant Road, and the back of the Great Hall, Claremont Road and elsewhere. The game can also be enjoyed during the winter months in the Drill Hall.



Football is very popular here, and matches are frequently played on the lower cricket ground. Also at the St. John's ground on the Lew, where a small charge is made.



The days which are devoted to competitive *Athletic Sports* are among the red-letter days of Tunbridge Wells.



These sports take place usually on Whit Monday, on the lower cricket ground, in the presence of a very large company of spectators, and under the patronage of the local gentry.

For *Fishing* the waters are, generally speaking, not adapted for the fly; but there are trout, jack, chub, bream, roach, perch, etc., to amuse the ground bait angler. The Medway, at Tonbridge, is within easy reach for this sport, and permission is given for which payment is taken.

Boating may be had at the neighbouring town of Tonbridge, on the river Medway, where are boats on hire.

The annual *Swimming Fête*, at the spacious baths before mentioned, has also become an entertainment of importance.



The programme is a long one, and takes about four hours to get through. There are not only matches for boys and gentlemen of the place, but also for professional swimmers, whose displays of ornamental swimming elicit a large measure of admiration. The arrangements are such that ladies can attend.

The *Agricultural Show* is held in July or August, on grounds facing the Eridge Road, and is fast becoming one of the most important in England. There is a grand show of horses, cattle, sheep, poultry and farm produce; and everything connected with the tilling of the land and its multifarious products may be seen on the occasion of this annual display. Prizes to the value of £1,400 are given, and one of the great attractions is the jumping competition, which attracts large numbers to witness the bold and daring feats of horsemanship by both lady and gentlemen riders.

Flower Shows are admitted to be among the most elegant and refining of modern entertainments. The Flower Show of Tunbridge Wells, held in July, is one of the most attractive *fêtes* of the whole year. A first-class military band is usually engaged, and it is attended by most of the leading families in the district, and during the day thousands of persons pass into the grounds.

A *Chrysanthemum and Fruit Show*, of remarkable merit, is held annually.

There are also annual local exhibitions of flowers, fruit, etc., grown by *cottagers* residing at Brenchley, Frant, Eridge, Ashurst and other villages, under the patronage of the resident families, and are largely visited.

Choral and Instrumental and Dramatic Societies, etc.—During the winter months, the members of the Tunbridge Wells Vocal Association meet at the Town Hall for the practice of vocal and instrumental music, comprising oratorios, cantatas, etc.

There are other local societies conducted by the organists of the respective parishes, and an Orchestral Society for the practice of instrumental music. An Operatic Society has been established, and also a Dramatic Society, the members of which have given successfully public performances at the Great Hall.



MORNING WALKS ROUND TUNBRIDGE WELLS.*

OR an enjoyable walk the visitor to Tunbridge Wells has not to go a great way out of the town. He is no sooner outside of his lodgings than he finds himself in the midst of charming and varied scenery; and he can take no road, no footpath, without meeting with views of the surrounding country which will make walking a real pleasure. In this chapter we propose to act the part of *cicerone* to our readers upon their morning rambles. The several walks, which are now to be described, will occupy each a long morning, and some of them are only fit for the strong and practised pedestrian. Each may be more properly considered a group of rambles, so many are the various paths that open up in the course of a morning stroll in any one of the directions indicated, a noticeable feature being that there is scarcely one walk out of the town but what you may return a different route, instead of traversing the same road home.

* An enlarged map, to the scale of over three inches to the mile, has been prepared for the special use of pedestrians, clearly defining all roads and footpaths. May be had of the publisher of this Guide, price 1/-.

I.—THE HIGH ROCKS AND BROADWATER FOREST

are about a mile and a-half distant from the Pantiles, from which the pathway leads over the Common, then before or behind the houses of Hungershall Park, and so into the High Rocks Lane. Crossing the brook which divides Kent from Sussex, and then passing over, by a bridge, the South Coast Railway, the visitor soon reaches the High Rocks Hotel, the landlord of which rents the grounds containing the famous rocks. Paying an entrance fee of sixpence, he is admitted through a glazed doorway into the grounds. The visitor in a very idle, musing mood, may spend a morning in strolling about the various paths above and below the rocks. If he comes from the fen country, he may probably deem them sublime; they are of various heights, ranging from forty to seventy feet, which, in these days when it is so common to travel in mountainous countries, may to some appear insignificant. However, these "high rocks," if not stupendous, have certainly a beauty of their own. Two elements make up this special charm. They are split or broken up by deep clefts or chasms, so that there are many lines approaching the perpendicular, breaking the outline and separating the masses. And the growth of birch and other trees, which not only crown the summit, but spring from the sides, adds a richness and variety to the scene.

In the spring and early summer, wild flowers and ferns may here be seen in luxuriant abundance. There is a level greensward with a summer-house at one angle, forming an excellent lawn tennis ground, and commanding a charming view towards the south-west. Refreshments may be had from the hotel, the cellars of which are caverns beneath the rocks, and are cool even in the height of summer. Amusements of various kinds are here provided. A word of caution may not be out of

place regarding the fissures before mentioned: young children especially should not be allowed to play on the top of the rocks, as a fall would probably prove serious. A view of the High Rocks is given on the opposite page. Breaks run at intervals from the town: fare, sixpence each way.

A narrow dank chasm leads to the Bell Rock, so called because it yields a metallic ring when struck, as it pretty often is, with the mighty cudgels which lie ready to hand. It is most creditable to this much-belaboured and bedinted mass that it still survives its cruel fate! The rock is sacred to the memory of a lap-dog which met with an untimely end by falling down into this narrow fissure. Here is the epitaph: a guide-book writer was heartless enough to term it dog-gerel!

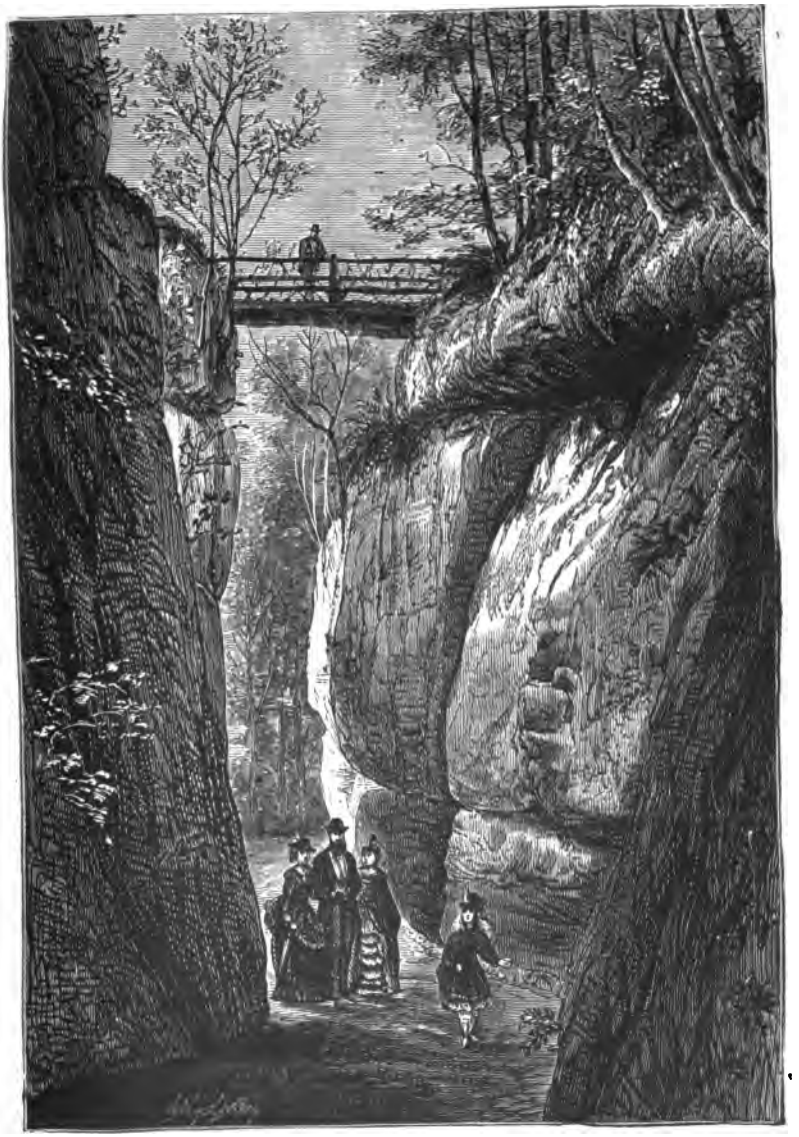
1702.

"This scratch I make that you may know
On this rock lyes the beauteous Bow;
Reader, this Rock is the Bow's Bell,
Strike't with thy stick and ring his knell."

Conspicuous on another rock, known as the Warning Rock, possibly as the inspiration of Dr. Watts' discourse before alluded to, are the following lines by J. Phippen, more commendable for their piety than their poetry:—

"Infidel! who, with thy finite wisdom,
Wouldst grasp things Infinite, and dost become
A scoffer of God's holiest Mysteries,
Behold this Rock, then tremble and rejoice.
Tremble! for HE who formed the mighty mass,
Could, in His justice, crush thee where thou art:
Rejoice that still His mercy spares thee."

There is a small lake adjoining, called the Trout Lake. This lake, when frozen over, is the resort of many who enjoy the healthful exercise of skating, for which there are many opportunities in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells.



THE HIGH ROCKS.

Every visitor should make a point of visiting the far-famed High Rocks.

On leaving the Rocks you may reach the town by five distinct routes, Nos. 1 and 2 being the shortest. (1) Turn to the right and keep the road until you come to the Common. (2) Turn to the left and take the path leading to the lake, strike into the meadows and continue towards the Wells, skirting the first wood, and following the path through the second until you reach the meadow, cross this, and through Ramslye Farm, to the Eridge Road, turning to the left to the town. (3) Turn to the right *over* the railway bridge, take up a lane on the left, which will lead you past a small farmstead, continue up the hill to Rusthall Common, near the Happy Valley. (4) Turn to the left on to Broadwater Forest, keeping the right hand or lower road until you reach a game-keeper's cottage, turn sharp to the right, pass *under* the railway bridge, and ascending a winding lane reach the Langton Road, when turn to the right, and home over Rusthall Common. (5) Turn to the left, on to the Broadwater Forest, and this time, take the left hand or upper road, which will bring you to a pretty pine-skirted road, leading into the Eridge Road, when turn to the left home ; or, on turning to the left, *as soon as you cross the stream in the hollow*, turn in at a gate on your left across some fields, and through a shady walk at the edge of the forest, which will bring you to the pine-skirted road just mentioned. This is only a variation of the first part of the last return journey.

II.—TO RUSTHALL AND HURST WOOD.

The way to Rusthall is by Bishop's Down and Langton Road or through Nevill Park. Anciently three great forests met at Tunbridge Wells : Water Down, South Frith, and Bishop's



View on Rusthall Common.

Down. Of the last of these only the name survives, as applied to the north-western part of the Common. The principal mansion here was known as Bishop's Down Grove, but has been enlarged and converted into the establishment called "The Spa Hotel." A pretty rustic lane and footpath formerly led from Bishop's Down to Hurst Wood: the lane is now fringed with handsome villas, and the footpath has become one of the well-ordered carriage-drives of Bishop's Down Park. To the left is Hurst Wood, formerly a large plantation of firs, larches, chestnuts, and other trees, which has lately been considerably thinned, but still offers a charming summer stroll. The walk may be continued over the small stream in the hollow out into the road near Woodlands. Turning to the right down the hill, and then keep straight forward up the hill, passing Broom Hill, the seat of Sir David Lionel Salomons, Bart., will bring you into the Southborough Road, and thence home; or, turning

to the left when on the road near Woodlands, continue along the lane to Lower Green, Rusthall Common, and home; or, *before* leaving Hurst Wood, and *before* you descend the hill and cross the stream mentioned above, note a lane upon the right, follow it to the fork, when turn right up the hill, and it will bring you into the town near St. John's Church.

One of the favourite walks and drives is by Mount Ephraim and Langton Road to Rusthall Common. From the high road which is here ever breezy even on the hottest day of summer, most glorious views may be enjoyed. Northwards is the Bidborough Ridge, and beyond, the Westerham Hills stretch away towards the Kentish horizon: southwards, the pine woods of Lord Abergavenny's estate are flanked by the semi-mountainous range of Crowborough Common and Ashdown Forest. Beyond the pretty church is the Happy Valley (see page 147), not immortalized as was the fancy scene of Rasselas, but remembered with pleasure by many a visitor.

In this hollow, now a part of what was formerly known as the Byass Estate, may be noticed the pool of water which was anciently the Cold Bath of Rusthall. Traces of the former occupation of this spot still remain. On the northern side of the high road may still be seen the excavations which are the only sign of the site of the old Assembly Rooms: here were probably the cellars and the foundations of the building.

Having reached Rusthall Common, the visitor may turn to the right by a path which conducts to a small verdant amphitheatre, the central figure wherein is a colossal stone, which has long been known as the Toad Rock, and is considered one of the "sights" of Tunbridge Wells. The resemblance of this mass of sandstone to an immense toad is certainly striking.

Other masses on this Common are called the Parson's Head, Loaf, and Lion Rocks, from their supposed resemblance to



By permission of **THE TOAD ROCK.** *Carl Norman & Co*

these several objects. The explanation of these conformations is simply this: the softer portions of the sandstone have been gradually washed or beaten away by rain and weather; the harder portions are left, assuming these singular and sometimes romantic shapes.

Reckoning from Mount Ephraim, this walk is not above four miles, supposing it to include Rusthall Church, the Happy Valley, the Toad Rock, and on to Lower Green by the road, keeping to the right-hand road until you reach Woodlands, where a gate to the right will lead you through Hurst Wood; or when at the Toad Rock a shorter way home is to take the path by the public-house, which will lead you to the new pumping station, and to the right through Bishop's Down to the Common.

III.—TO LANGTON AND GROOMBRIDGE.

A tolerably good pedestrian will find the following an agreeable morning walk. Cross Rusthall Common, and continue along the high road, noticing on the right, Dornden, formerly the handsome seat of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, the front elevation of which is represented in the woodcut on next page. The house is architecturally the most original and characteristic in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells. It was built from designs of the late Sir Charles Barry, R.A., and with its gables, oriel windows, and varied outlines, forms a very picturesque and charming dwelling. The gardens and grounds of Dornden are remarkable for their variety and beauty. They contain some fine specimens of conifers. There is a small lake on the northern limits of the grounds.

About a quarter of a mile along the road to the left is "Rust Hall," the charming modern residence, owned by Frank McClean, Esq. Passing several handsome mansions, remark, immediately beyond Langton Green, the simple but elegant



Dornden.

Episcopal Chapel, built from a design by Sir Gilbert Scott Continuing about half a mile, turn to the left and on descending the hill leading from Langton to Groombridge a magnificent prospect stretches before the eye. Proceed down the hill to Groombridge—the older part of which is built round a little green, with some curiously-trained old trees in front of the cottages. Groombridge Chapel has much that will occupy the visitor's attention. Groombridge Place has had many owners, but the most memorable are the Wallers. Richard Waller, a distinguished soldier in the reign of Henry V., captured the Duke of Orleans at the Battle of Agincourt, and kept his royal prisoner in honourable confinement at Groombridge Place for a long term of twenty years. In consideration of his having taken

so distinguished a prisoner, Henry V. granted to Sir Richard Waller, and his heirs in perpetuity, a supplemental crest—*or escutcheon of France, hanging to a label on a walnut tree, with the motto*, "HI FRUCTUS VIRTUTIS." This gallant man, in the reign of Henry VI., filled the office of sheriff of Sussex and of Kent. Edmund Waller, of poetic fame, is said to have first seen at Groombridge Place his lady-love, Dorothea Sydney, eldest daughter of the Earl of Leicester, of Penshurst, whose charms he has commemorated as "Saccharissa." His verses failed to subdue her "cruel unkindness." Despising his suit, she gave her hand successively to two husbands—The Earl of Sunderland and Robert Smith, Esq., of Bidborough. Notwithstanding his repulse, the bard remained heart-whole, for he obtained a lady of the Breaux family for his second wife, by whom he had a large offspring. When both were far advanced in years, Waller and "Saccharissa" happened to meet at the house of a common friend, Lady Wharton, of Wooburn, near Beaconsfield. "When, Mr. Waller, will you write such fine verses upon me again?" asked the faded beauty, in a bantering tone. The disenchanted poet replied: "Oh, Madam! when your ladyship is as young again."

Groombridge Place is a very interesting old moated house well worthy of a visit. It is now occupied by the daughters of the late Rev. J. J. Saint, M.A., formerly Rector of Speldhurst.

Beyond the green is Groombridge Station, near to which many modern cottages and villas have been erected. Taking the road to the left over the railway bridge, you reach Park Corner, when turn again to the left, continue the walk over Broadwater Forest and home by the High Rocks Lane. The return journey may also be made along the meadows at the rear of Groombridge Place, passing through the Sewage Farm, making your way over the fields, through the woods, and crossing the stream to the High



THE HAPPY VALLEY.

Rocks; here you can either (1) keep the High Rocks Road to the left which will bring you out on the Common—or, as described in Walk I. (2) turn to the right which will lead you over the Forest, through the pines, to Eridge Road—or (3) cross the road and turn in through the fields and Ramslye Farm to Eridge Road—or (4) turn to the right, and just over the stream go through a gate to the left. Keep the path across the fields and along a shady walk, which skirts the Forest and will lead you, if you keep to the left on reaching the road, to the Eridge Road. This is a walk of seven miles or more.

ASHURST,

or the Wood of Ash Trees, is a small parish four miles from Tunbridge Wells. Prior to the Reformation, there was in the old church—which is small but worth the visitor's attention—a rood or cross, which was believed to possess the wonderful attribute of increasing in size yearly. Ashurst may be reached by rail, being on the Oxted Line. To walk, proceed over Rusthall Common, along the Langton Road until you pass the church on the Green, when you turn into the fields through a gate on the right, continue through Ashurst Park (to the left is the mansion belonging to G. Field, Esq.), following the path until you reach the road near Stone Cross, where turn right and there is a grand old chestnut tree measuring thirty feet in girth of trunk, pass along and keep the road to the left when Ashurst Church will be reached. A return may be made through the fields near the Church, and along a right of way over the property of Sir George Stirling, to Groombridge, and thence home as before described.

IV.—TO SPELDHURST.

In this parish a large part of the town of Tunbridge Wells is situated. The church and village are about three miles from

the town. They may be reached by a footpath from Lower Green, beyond Rusthall Common: taking a path through the allotment gardens and meadows, which continue through a pretty wood and out into the road near the school house; or keeping for some distance to the road to the left after passing Lower Green until you cross the stream at Small Brook, and



By permission of] *Speldhurst Church and Lych Gate.* [Carl Norman & Co.

then up the hill to the left; or through Hurst Wood, turning to the right down the hill, taking a narrow footpath just opposite the gardener's cottage below Broom Hill, and when reaching the road at the top of the hill, turn to the left. Or the walk may be varied by turning off the London Road on the Lew, crossing Culverden Downs and passing Caen Farm. If a

still longer walk be desired, Speldhurst may be reached either by way of Langton, turning to the right when you reach the Green; or by way of Southborough, across the Common, skirting the grounds of Bentham Hill and along the bridle way to Etherington Hill; or crossing the Common, pass in front of the pumping station and keep the road until you reach the village. Some of these paths lead through delightful meadows and copses.

The old church was consumed by lightning on the 22nd of October, 1791. So intense was the heat that the bells were melted by it, and all the monuments (including several memorials of the Waller family) were destroyed. The church erected in place of that thus destroyed was rebuilt in 1870. It stands upon a fine eminence in the midst of a large churchyard, where were buried very many of the residents of old Tunbridge Wells. There are many charming woods and flower-decked valleys in this attractive parish. Here are several handsome residences belonging to wealthy families who have recently settled in the neighbourhood. The walks to Speldhurst and back vary from six to eight miles.

V.—TO SOUTHBOROUGH AND BIDBOROUGH.

The London Road is the high road to Southborough (which is three miles from the Pantiles, and two from St. John's), and is a very favourite residence for families appreciating quiet, beautiful scenery, and good society. Being midway between Tonbridge and the Wells, it is conveniently situated for either railway station. On the Southborough Road, just beyond the St. John's Church, is the Skinners' Middle School for Boys.

In the days of Charles II., Southborough was, as has been shown, a place of great resort, and divided with Rusthall the popularity which eventually was monopolised by Tunbridge

Wells. The Common of Southborough is extremely pretty and varied. Near the church is a good cricket ground. Several very aged trees may be observed close by the roadside. The western portion of the Common is less open, but abounds in fine timber and commands charming views. The church, shaded by a grove of oak trees, adds to the general effect. It



By permission of] *Southborough Common.* [Carl Norman & Co.

has been altered and enlarged, and now contains nearly 500 sittings. The liberality of the late Mrs. Pugh led to the erection of a second church, affording accommodation to 350 persons. This edifice, dedicated to St. Thomas, was opened in 1860; both church and site, together with £1,000 in aid of its endowment, £500 as a repairing fund, and an organ, were the munificent

gift of Mrs. Pugh. Some years back this lady founded in the neighbourhood a row of alms-houses for the widows of clergymen and professional men. A third church—Christ Church—stands in the Prospect Road, in the new and populous district which has sprung up between the high road and Speldhurst Road. In 1870, a commodious Wesleyan Chapel was built, fronting the high road and near the Common, in place of a smaller structure which had long occupied the same site. There is also a Baptist Chapel and a large Parochial Hall, suitable for public meetings and entertainments.

Within the last few years, a new quarter has been opened up, known as Southborough Park, where are many eligible residences; and a new district called High Brooms, to the south of the town, is fast becoming populated, and a church and schools have been erected recently. The houses in Pennington Lane command very fine views north-eastwards across the valleys of Kent to the chalk hills beyond. The place is governed by an Urban District Council. The water supply is abundant. The lighting and drainage are carried out by the Council.

The walk to Southborough and back varies from six to eight miles.

There is now a most excellent Bus Service between Southborough and Tunbridge Wells. By taking advantage of this, Southborough Common is reached without the fatigue of walking along what is perhaps the most uninteresting road leading out of this town, and from the Common several delightful strolls may be made home. On the S.E.R. line is a new station called "Southborough Station." The name is a little misleading, as it lands you into a district just beyond the Tunbridge Wells Gas Works, the town of Southborough lying about a mile to the north-west. The station is convenient, however, for those who live at the far end of Upper Grosvenor Road, and will prove so

also to those who may reside on the newly laid out Liptraps Park Estate, on part of which it is built.

The visitor will do well to extend his walk from Southborough to the elevated village of

BIDBOROUGH

(whose picturesque little church, lately rebuilt, forms an object of interest), by passing through Southborough and taking the first road to the left. There is in the churchyard a sarcophagus by Bacon, to the memory of Baron de Roll, colonel of the Swiss regiment named after him, and a French emigrant, who died at Bounds in 1813, aged sixty-four. Near the church is an old farm-house, with the details of which the admirer of our old domestic architecture cannot fail to be pleased. On the height above is Bidborough Mill, a landmark visible from all parts of the country round.

The pedestrian may return from Bidborough to the Wells (1) by keeping the road by the church and passing the Sewage Farm down the hill, when reaching the cross road turn a short way to the left and over a stile to the right, and through the meadow, at the end of which turn sharp to the left along the upper side of a hop garden, through a gate on the right, and keep the path into the Speldhurst road, cross the road and then through another gate directly opposite. Descending the hill by the path will bring you out near a cottage, when enquire the way home through Hurst Wood. (2) After seeing the church, return to the road on the Ridge, pass the Windmill to a lane on the *left* near Prince Stile Farm, and continue from thence as described in Walk XII. Or (3) returning from the church, take to the *right*, follow the turnpike road a short distance, and turn over a stile upon the right. Here is a pretty footpath by which the return journey may be made, passing through Great Bounds Wood to Southborough Common.

Between Southborough and Bidborough lies

GREAT BOUNDS,

consisting of a noble park and Gothic mansion, which was the seat of the late Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge, Bart., vicar of Tonbridge. It is supposed to owe its name to the circumstance of its being the boundary of the liberty of Tonbridge; but another authority affirms the name to be a corruption of that of its ancient owners, the Bohuns or Boons. In a secluded position in the Birch Wood a column is erected to the memory of Lady Catherine, the wife of Brigadier-General Stewart (afterwards Marquis of Londonderry), and sister to the Earl of Darnley, a former possessor of this estate.

MABLEDON

is a handsome house of modern erection on Quarry Hill, about a mile and a-half from Tonbridge. This castellated mansion was built by James Burton, Esq., who subsequently disposed of it to the late John Deacon, Esq., by whom many improvements were added to it, from the designs of Decimus Burton. Some of the external walls of the house are composed of the ruins of the original Penshurst Place. Mabledon, from its elevated position, commands a beautiful prospect of the Weald of Kent.

Or a *détour* may be made to the right on the walk out, and Southborough may be reached by Powder Mill Lane, turning to the left through Broake's Wood, or further on near the railway viaduct.

VI.—TO COLEBROOK PARK AND BLACKHURST LANE.

The public are not allowed to walk, or to drive in flys, through Colebrook Park; but it is, by permission of Mr. Smith, open to equestrians and private carriages. The best plan is to turn down Blackhurst Lane, a mile on the Pembury

Road, and to skirt the new Sandown Park. Entering the first lodge gate on the left, you ride through beautiful plantations containing many rare shrubs and trees, and turning to the right you can emerge upon the road from Pembury to Tonbridge by the further lodge. Part of the Great Lodge Estate has been purchased by the Town Authorities, and is used as a sewage farm. There are paths and roads little used connecting Powder Mill Lane with Liptraps Farm and the Great Lodge Estate, and so with St. James's Road by Lover's Lane. A new road, in continuation of the Upper Grosvenor Road, has been opened up as an approach to the Sewage Farm. This may be now easily reached by the new Southborough Station.

VII.—TO PEMBURY.

Pembury is a large, beautiful, woodland parish, three miles from the Wells. The high road is a favourite carriage drive; there is also a pretty bye-road at the back of Pembury Road, starting from Hall's Hole. The village consists mainly of two portions; many houses and shops adjoin the Upper Green, which are supplied with gas from Tunbridge Wells, and where is the new church. Somewhat to the north is the Lower Green, near to which is the Board School, the Congregational Church and Manse, and the Sunday School, used on week-evenings as a workmen's club. The old parish church is at some distance in the woods; it was restored some years since. As this was away from the population, the church on the green was built on a suitable site, given by the late Marquis Camden. Not only are the Kentish and Sussex hills seen to great advantage from the upper part of Pembury, but on very clear days there has been seen the smoke of steam ships passing towards the Thames on the north, and down the English Channel on the

south. So old inhabitants have assured us, and the assertion though remarkable and startling, is credible.

A good walker may pass through the upper and lower Green, leave the waterworks and reservoir on the right, and climb the hill to the old church; then he should ask his way to Pembury Walk, whence he will enjoy some delightful woodland scenery, and may return by the high road connecting Tonbridge and Hastings, and then by Blackhurst Lane. Though this is the most interesting excursion in this direction, many are the foot-paths and lanes in this parish which will reward the pedestrian who is inquisitive enough to discover the out-of-the-way nooks and corners. In the spring Pembury is in the perfection of its beauty; the meadows are gay with cowslips, the green banks twinkle with primroses and violets, the copses are carpeted with the blue hyacinth, and the woodland slopes are overgrown with periwinkles and anemones; whilst the larch "hangs all its leafy tassels forth."

A long walk of eight or nine miles may be made by following the Pembury Road to Woodsgate, there turning to the left, pursuing the Tonbridge Road, leaving the Union Workhouse on the right, passing Somerhill Park on the same side, and at the Vauxhall Inn turning sharp to the left. The lane leading from this point to Southborough is a capital specimen of the Kentish bye-road, with its corn fields, hop gardens, orchards, meadows and copses on either hand.

VIII.—TO HAWKENBURY AND BAYHALL.

Follow the Calverley Road to Hall's Hole, turn to the right, and then take a footpath to the left, which will lead to Tutty's Village or Hawkenbury, on the skirts of the Forest. Or, when at Hall's Hole, ask for the path to Bayhall, which is to the left.

This is almost impassable in winter and wet weather, but on a dry summer day will be found a pleasant walk through meadows and woods. Bayhall, about three miles distant from the Wells, is a dilapidated mansion which was formerly a seat of the Culpeppers, and has yet some traces of its former importance, though its apartments are now used as tenements for farm labourers. The return may be by Pembury Green. To do this, when leaving the house to come back to the Wells, you must take the path to the right. Or you may, if you ask permission, get out into the road beyond the pond, and in that case, turn to the left for Pembury and to the right will bring you to the Bush Houses, and thence to the Wells: (1) through Hawkenbury, in that case take the road to the right; or (2) keep straight on down the hill past the mill pond to the Frant Road and lower part of the town. These walks are through the property of the Marquis Camden.

Hall's Hole is the starting point for several delightful walks through woodland tracts of country. An enterprising pedestrian will discover these for himself. No footpath can be taken from this point which will not be found to lead through charming scenery.

A very pretty walk in this direction, if undertaken in dry weather, is as follows:—Up Mount Sion, along Claremont Road, turn in the swing gate on the right near some cottages just after the turn of the road towards Grove Hill Road; pass along the narrow walk and through the gates straight on until you reach the Forest Road (please take note of this gate); turn to the right, and some forty yards on you will see a pond on the opposite side of the road; take the path to the left of this, over a stile into the fields; keep the track across down the hill, and you will come to a shed on the right and cottage on the left; pass these, and keep straight forward over a waste piece of land

through a gate. Here is a small stream and two paths; the one sharp to the left will lead you through Hawkenbury to the Wells. The one straight forward is a wooded path with fields beyond, and will bring you out into a road. You can now return to the town (1) by turning to the right over the railway bridge, passing the Cemetery, and out into the Forest Road; when turn to the left, and the first to the right, to Frant Road and Pantiles. Or (2) a longer way:—Turn to the left down the hill, pass the mill pond, up the hill to the cross way; take the one to the left, and keep the left hand road at the top of the hill, which follow to the end of the village; through the gate close to some gardens, and along the path to the Forest Road almost opposite the gate previously noted, which is a little to the left; through this, and home by Claremont Road and Mount Sion.

IX.—TO FRANT.

The railway station of Frant is nearly two miles from the village, and adjoins a hamlet of the parish known as Bell's Yew Green.

Frant is a delightfully-situated and most picturesque village, two miles south of the Wells, the several approaches to which exhibit a profusion of the most beautiful scenery. Keeping the main road from the Wells, you have on one side Frant Forest, and on the other the Eridge Woods, as rival claimants for the admiration of the tourist. The prospect opens out on passing the lodge to Eridge Park to the right, and reaching the well,* whence a varied woodland expanse suddenly reveals itself. From the top of the church tower a noble prospect may be enjoyed; the Sussex Downs, the Surrey Hills, and the heights of West Kent are prominent features of the view; and even

* This well was placed for the use of the villagers as a memorial to the late Prince Consort.

Fairlight Downs, Dungeness, and Beachy Head are distinctly visible. The church, which is a modern structure, was opened in July, 1822. It has recently undergone considerable alteration and enlargement. Memorial Schools have also been erected to commemorate the ministry of a former rector, the Rev. Sir Henry Thompson, Bart. The Rev. W. C. Streatfeild, M.A., is the rector.

Frant Green is surrounded with handsome dwellings. Shernfold Place, belonging to the Ashburnham family, the park gate entrance of which is from the Green. Saxonbury Lodge, formerly the residence of Lord George Nevill. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, statesman and diplomatist, occupied, during the latter years of his life, a mansion, named Frant Court, facing the Green, and commanding extensive views over Eridge Park. A handsome stone cross may be seen in the churchyard, said to be erected to his memory by Queen Victoria ; around the base of which is the following quotation from Tennyson : —

> "Not once or twice in our rough island story,
> The path of duty was the way to glory."

From Tunbridge Wells, the most direct way to Frant is the high road, starting from the end of the Pantiles. After inspecting the Church and grave-yard, pass through a gate in the wall at the rear, down a steep decline, keeping the path through Chase Wood into the road near Fitness Farm ; here you can either (1) go along the lane to the left which will lead you to the Frant Road, taking to the right, home ; or (2) through the farm yard opposite, across the fields into the road, then to the left to Tunbridge Wells.

A longer ramble to the village is to pass through Birling Road, which branches from Frant Road just beyond the entrance to Broadwater Down, on to the Forest Road. Take the first turning to the right, which will lead you past the main

entrance to the Cemetery, over the railway and down the hill, past Benhall Mill pond to some cottages. Here are four roads, but the one to the right must be taken, which will lead you to an inn on Bell's Yew Green; pass by the left of this, up the hill to Ely Grange, keeping on until you reach Frant Green, taking the main road, home. This walk may be shortened by turning from the Birling Road into the Bayham Road, passing the lower side of the Cemetery, until you reach Bell's Yew Green, and thence, as above described, to Frant.

X.—TO ERIDGE.

Eridge is one of the finest seats in the immediate neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells.

The Castle lies on the left of the road, but it is not shown. The Eridge Estate has been in the Nevill family more than four hundred years. But there was a chase here at the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book; indeed, from time immemorial this domain has been part of the manor of Rotherfield and the forest of Waterdown. Various families possessed the estate under the Saxon and Norman kings; in the fifteenth century, however, the present family came to be its owners in the following manner:—"In the twelfth of Henry IV. (1411) "this manor passed into the family of Beauchamp, Earls of "Warwick and Lords Bergavenny; in consequence of a marriage "with Isabella, an heiress of the family of Hugh de Despencer "(a previous owner); and afterwards it descended to Sir Edward "Nevill (fourth son of Ralph, first Earl of Westmoreland, by "Joan, his second wife, the daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke "of Lancaster), in virtue of his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter "and sole heiress of Richard, Earl of Worcester and Lord Ber-"gavenny; the son of Sir William, the fourth son of Thomas, "Earl of Warwick. This Sir Edward Nevill, the direct ancestor



"of the present Marquess of Abergavenny, in the fourteenth of "Henry VI., did homage for the lands of his wife's inheritance; "and had possession of them accordingly; excepting the castle "and lordship of Bergavenny. Notwithstanding his want of "possession of which, he had (nineteenth of Henry VI.), in "his wife's right, according to the ancient usage of the realm, "the title of Lord Bergavenny."—*Amsinck.*

Eridge does not seem to have been, until recently, the principal dwelling place of its owners. Still, there was a large mansion on the property in the time of Queen Elizabeth, who, in one of her "progresses" through Kent and Sussex, passed six days at Eridge, under the hospitable roof of "my lord of "Burgeny." Lord Burleigh, writing on August 10th, 1573,

describes the wild nature of the surrounding country. "The "Queen," he says, "had a hard beginning of her progress in "the Wild (Weald) of Kent, and some part of Sussex, where "surely were more dangerous rocks and valleys, much worse "ground than was in the Peak," *i.e.*, of Derbyshire.



"FORM NO MEAN WISH."

The Nevill family have resided sometimes at Birling, near Maidstone, and sometimes at Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead; but the present Marquess makes Eridge his country residence. The Castle was built early in the present century, and its ivy-covered towers, when viewed from a distance, form a pleasing feature in the landscape.

The Park, which is a chief ornament of the neighbourhood, is said to contain two thousand acres. The equestrian is not permitted to make use of the green rides cut in all directions. which are said to exceed seventy miles in length! But a public footpath leads through the Park, from Eridge Green to the Mayfield Road, a short distance beyond Frant Green; and this footpath commands excellent views of the castle, the lake, and the richly-wooded heights on every side. The pedestrian will not fail to fall in with several herds of deer—the red-deer, common in Scotland, as well as the fallow-deer usually found in English parks. On the whole, a lovelier walk will scarcely be found than that to Frant by the Forest, then through Eridge Park to the Green, and back through the Wood near Eridge Rocks, turning in by the Church, Broadwater Forest, and the High Rocks Lane. The distance is over eight miles. The park may also be entered at Dane Gate from the Rotherfield Road, and at Pocock's Gate on the road to Mark Cross.


ERIDGE CASTLE
BATHAM.
TOAD ROCK
ICHTHAM

For a longer walk after passing Frant Green, continue along the Mayfield Road beyond Pocock's Gate, and, ascending the hill, take a lane to the right, which will take you just beyond Saxonbury Tower, and along the road locally known as the Outer Boundary, into the Rotherfield Road, turning to the right for Eridge. This walk (which is about ten miles) is most enjoyable: the fine Sussex scenery to the right, and to the left the view over the park to the Bidborough and Sevenoaks Hills, and on a clear day beyond these Leith Hill, near Dorking, and the monument erected thereon may be seen without the aid of a glass.

A very pleasant shorter walk of about five miles is along the Frant Road until a few yards *this* side of the *second* lodge to Eridge Park. On the bank on the right is a small gate, through this, along the meadow and keep the shady path through White Hill Wood to the Eridge Road, then to the right, home.

On the south-western edge of the Park may be seen Saxonbury Hill, which is crowned by a stone prospect tower, about sixty feet in height.

The visitor will notice the neat church and parsonage near Eridge Green. If it be Friday, the ERIDGE ROCKS are, by permission of the Marquess of Abergavenny, freely opened to visitors, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., during May and the three following months. These rocks are situated in a secluded spot, in the midst of greensward and shady trees, and, though less frequented, are by many thought prettier than the High Rocks. They are entered through the gate next the churchyard wall, and the shortest return is by Eridge Road through the avenues of beech and fir trees, passing the lower entrance lodge to the park. When at the Rocks a public footpath to Park Corner leads through the woods skirting the Rocks. If you continue this walk by crossing the road and entering the

gate opposite, you will find a path which is a public thoroughfare, which will lead you through some fields out into a road; turn to the right up the hill to Park Corner, from thence you can reach Tunbridge Wells: (1) by keeping the road to the right and continue over the Forest, past the High Rocks; or (2) by continuing the same road for about a quarter of a mile and taking the lane to the right; this route will lead you out through the pine plantations into the Eridge Road, when keep to the left to the town.

HARRISON'S ROCKS, a delightful spot for a picnic, are open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and any other day by order to be obtained from Mr. G. Davidson, Eridge. They are to be reached by the road from Groombridge Station to Park Corner. About a mile from the former turn into a path over a stile or gate close to a cottage on the right, and follow the path through Birchden Woods to the Rocks. The path, although a little difficult to trace, is considered by many to be a right of way.

BOAR'S HEAD, a neighbouring hamlet, being in private grounds on the road to Crowborough, is so named after a rock, which Mr. Onley calls a "huge high stone, capped with "another one, like a monstrous head—a frightful figure; a sort "of Druid idol."

XI.—TO BUCKHURST PARK.

This Park, through which are some very beautiful walks, may be reached by taking train to Groombridge. On leaving the station, turn to your left, up some steps, cross the road and through the meadow, and when out in the road ascend the hill, keeping to the right, passing the church and a farm-yard; continue until you come to a gate leading into some fields. There is a thoroughfare through these which will bring you out

into the main road. Here turn to the left, and keep straight on for a mile or so, until you come to Buckhurst Park on the right; or instead of going through the gate as above, turn abruptly to the left down the hill, under the railway arch, to the Tan-yard. On the other side of the road there is a gate which leads through some meadows, over the disused railway,



By permission of] *Buckhurst.* [G. Glanville

and away through the woods, bringing you to Mott's Mill; continue up the hill, bearing to the right out into the road leading from Groombridge; turn to the left down the hill and Buckhurst Park will soon be seen on your right. There are two routes through the Park; the first taking you along the lower path and skirting some of the lakes, the other being higher up;

both will bring you to the Withyham entrance, passing close to the residence of the noble owner, the Earl De la Warr. On leaving the Park, bear off to the left through a gate, cross the stream by a rustic bridge, and you will come to a shady path leading to Withyham Church. Then make for the railway station, which can be seen from the churchyard, and is distant about a quarter of a mile. On a fine summer's morning or evening this will be found a most delightful stroll. This walk may be started from Withyham, working back to Groombridge, and hence per rail to the Wells, or a good pedestrian may return from Groombridge on foot, as described in previous walk (page 146).

XII.—TO BIDBOROUGH RIDGE.

Through Hurst Wood into the road. To the right until nearly opposite the gardener's cottage, when turn in over a stile to the left and keep straight up the footpath skirting Sir David Salomon's Park until you reach a road. Cross this, and immediately opposite pass through a gate across some fields, keeping to the *left* through hop gardens, which will lead you to another road. On reaching this, turn to the *left*, and about fifty yards on will be a lane to the right. Take this, and continue to the top of the hill to Bidborough Church, and thence into the Penshurst Road. Turn again to the left along the road, past the Windmill, until you reach Prince Stile Farm-house, a short way beyond which, on the left, is a lane leading by Barden Mill to Speldhurst Church. You now have a choice of roads: (1) To the *left*, you can reach Tunbridge Wells through Hurst Wood by continuing along the road, crossing the stream, until you come to a V stile and



footpath on the left some distance up the hill; this leads through fields to Hurst Wood; or (2) by turning to the *right*, ascend the hill by Speldhurst Church, past the schools, and then turn in a gate on the opposite side of the road and keep the path, which will bring you to Lower Green, Rusthall, and thence to Tunbridge Wells; or (3) should you desire to prolong the walk, instead of turning in at the gate over the fields, keep to the road, which will bring you to Langton Green, and from thence by the high road over Rusthall Common to Tunbridge Wells. This walk should be undertaken only by those who can endure a good climb, but it will amply repay any pedestrian who can accomplish it. The views from first to last are beautiful, and those from Bidborough Ridge, if the day be fine, almost unsurpassed. Distance from eight to ten miles.

Many more walks might be described for pedestrians who are staying here for a long period, but the foregoing will suffice to occupy the casual visitor. The Publisher of this Guide will always be happy and willing to give any information in his power to visitors, and to put them in the way of enjoying more extended rambles, should they apply.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS.

Views of the many places of interest and of the most prominent points of view, taken by well-known photographers, and ordnance and special maps, giving on a clear scale all walks and drives for miles round, useful to those who drive, equestrians, cyclists, and pedestrians, may be had at The Pantiles Library and The Broadway.

NOTE.—On page 164, line 7 from top, read *right* for *left* and *left* for *right*.

EIGHT SHORT AND AGREEABLE WALKS,

Starting from the Pantiles. Compiled for the use of Visitors who know little of the locality.

The time allowed is for walking at a very moderate pace.

WALK 1.—From Pantiles, take path over Common to Hungershall Park; keep on to High Rocks Road, over first stile on the right, leading up a rather steep hill through the fields to Rusthall Common at the rear of the Churchyard; keep round by Churchyard, through Nevill Park, to Tunbridge Wells Common.—*About 1 hour.*

WALK 2.—Path to Hungershall, along High Rocks Road, and over Railway Bridge. Just past the entrance to High Rocks is an ascending path to the left, leading through some meadows; keep straight on, skirting or passing through the woods, until a farmyard is reached; go through this and follow the roadway which leads into the Eridge road; turn to the left for the Pantiles.—*About 1½ hours.*

WALK 3.—Up the Frant Road, which keep until you reach a lodge and gate on the right, at the foot of the hill; then take the turning to the right, along "Frant Bottom," and follow until reaching the Eridge road; keep to the right for Tunbridge Wells.—*2 hours.*

WALK 4.—Along Cumberland Walk, cross the brook, and follow the lane to the left, which will lead over a railway foot-bridge; cross this and keep path through meadows, up a steep incline to the road; turn to the right, keeping the right-hand road, which will lead into town down Frant Road.—*1½ hours.*

WALK 5.—Along Cumberland Walk, cross the brook, along the lane to the left a short distance; turn in a gate on the right, which leads over the railway (a level crossing); keep path through a farmyard, and follow the path bearing to the right, to a gate forward; then straight into the main road; turn to the right, and keep road into town.—*1 hour.*

WALK 6.—Same as walk 5, until the main road is reached; when turn to the left, and continue along the road, over railway tunnel, until you come to a small gate on the left; through this and straight on will lead to Camden Park; continue through a narrow walk into Claremont Road, and into town either to the left, down Mount Sion, or to the right down Grove Hill Road.—*1½ hours.*

WALK 7.—Up Major York's Road, to the left to Rusthall Common; keep the right-hand road for a short distance; then take a path to the right, leading to Toad Rock; pass on through a narrow way, in front of cottages, to Hurst Wood; take road to the right, which leads into Bishop's Down Park; and thence on to Tunbridge Wells Common, near to the Cricket Ground.—*1¼ hours.*

WALK 8.—Path to Hungershall, into High Rocks Road, pursuing that to the stream; soon after crossing this, take turning to the *right*, and keep along a winding road, past a small farmstead, until reaching Rusthall Common; skirt the Happy Valley, past the Church, through Nevill Park to Tunbridge Wells Common.—*1¼ hours.*

TWELVE RAMBLES BY RAIL AND ROAD,

FOR STRONG PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS.

The distances, though estimated, will be found fairly correct, and the totals represent the walking distances only; the return journey in each case to be by rail.

1.—By Rail to Crowborough Station.

	MILES.
Stone Mill	3½
Hadlow Down	2
Framfield	4
Uckfield	2
Crowborough Beacon	6
Eridge Station	2
	19½

2.—By Rail to Rotherfield Station.

Rotherfield	2
Argus Hill	2
Butcher's Cross	2
Cross-in-Hand	3
Black Boys	2½
Ringmer	7
Lewes Station	3
	21½

3.—By Rail to Wadhurst.

Best Beech Hill	1½
Tidebrook	2
Coggingsmill	1½
Mayfield	2
Heathfield Park	3½
Burwash	5½
Etchingham Station	2
	18

4.—By Rail to Etchingham.

Hurst Green	1½
Hawkhurst	2½
Cranbrook	4½
Staplehurst Station	6½
	15

5.—By Rail to Frant.

Hook Green	4
Lamberhurst	1½
Kilndown	2
Goudhurst	3
Horsmonden	3½
Brenchley	2
Paddock Wood Station	3½
	19½

6.—By Rail to Hartfield.

Gill's Lap	3½
High Beeches	3
Witch Cross	1½
West Hoathly	4
East Grinstead Station	5
	17

7.—Walk to Langton

	2½
Ashurst	2
Holtye	3½
Hammer Wood	1½
East Grinstead Station	3½
	13

8.—Walk to Langton

	MILES.
	2½
Through Ashurst Park	1
Fordcombe Green	1
Walter's Green	1
Stonewall	1½
Walnut Tree Cross	1½
Cowden	2½
Hever Castle	4
Edenbridge Station	3½
	18½

9.—Walk to Speldhurst

	3
Pound's Bridge	2
Penshurst	1
Chiddingstone	2
Bow Beech	2
Four Elms	3
Crockham Hill	2½
Westerham	3
Brasted	2
Sundridge	1
Riverhead	1
Sevenoaks Station	1½
	24

10.—By Rail to Tonbridge.

Four Wents	3
Shipbourne	1½
Ivy Hatch	1½
Stone Street	1
Over Seal Chart to Seal	2
Sevenoaks (Knole Park)	3
Tonbridge Station	6
	18

11.—Walk to Southborough

	3
Tonbridge	2
Hadlow	4
Mereworth	4
Wateringbury	2
Teston	1½
West Farleigh	1
Barming	1
Barming Heath	1
Maidstone Station	1½
	21

12.—By Rail to Sevenoaks.

Chevening	3
Knockholt	2
Westerham	4½
Limpsfield	2½
Oxted	1
Godstone Station	4½
	17½

Since the above walks were compiled, Stations have been opened at Hever, Cowden, Oxted, and other places on the L.B. & S.C.R., and Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Hawkhurst, etc. on the S.E.R., which may be taken advantage of when necessary.



RIDES AND DRIVES TO NEIGHBOURING SEATS, TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

OFFERING ourselves to the visitor as a "guide, philosopher, and friend," we propose in this chapter to accompany him in his more distant excursions. The visitor with a taste for scenery and antiquities may remain a whole summer in Tunbridge Wells, and still leave unexplored many a scene of beauty, many a relic of antiquity, many a stately mansion and castle. Visitors who do not bring with them their own horses and carriages will find saddle-horses, waggonettes, dog-carts and flys, to suit their need and taste. To many of the places to be described, access can be had by one or another line of railway; but those who have no reason to be economical of time or money will find the road the pleasantest and the most healthful means of travelling during the summer season. We will describe the localities of interest as they may be conveniently visited in a series of thirteen excursions, grouping together in some instances several neighbouring places under the heading of one excursion.

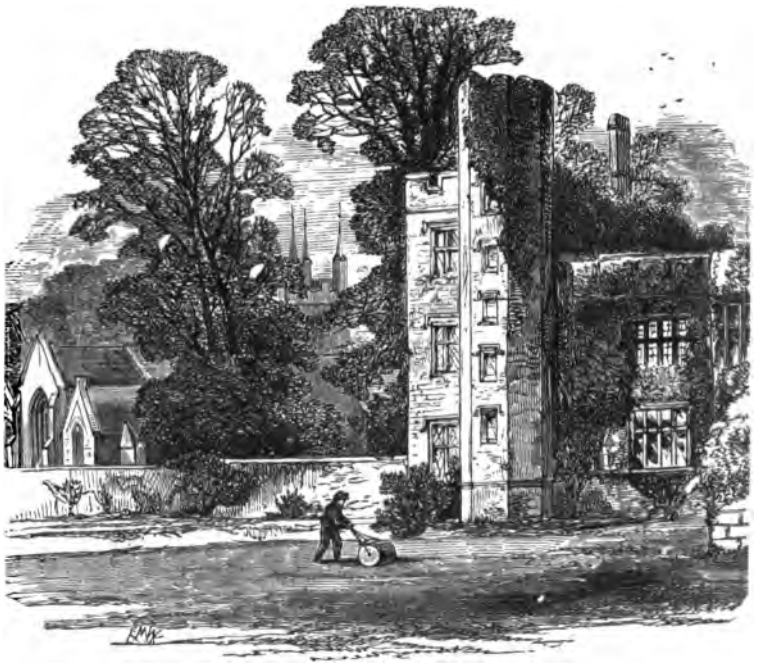


Entrance to Penshurst Place from the Village.

EXCURSION I.—TO PENSHURST AND HEVER.

The pilgrimage to Penshurst should not be neglected by any visitor to Tunbridge Wells. Among the many places of interest accessible from this centre, Penshurst stands pre-eminent. Penshurst Place, through the remarkable courtesy of the owner, Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, can be seen on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from three to six.* Admission is now by Ticket, to be obtained either at the Post Office, or of Mrs. Everest, the Leicester Hotel, Penshurst, price 1/- each, and a

* As these times are occasionally altered, the Publisher can only be responsible for their correctness at the date of publication. This must apply to all the times given for other places that are on view.



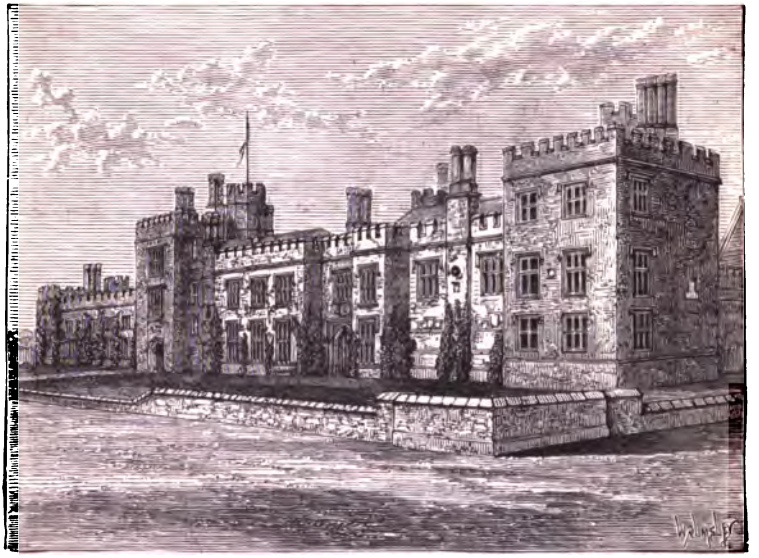
Record Tower and View of Church.

responsible attendant accompanies each party and gives every information respecting the rooms, pictures, etc. A good pedestrian may walk, mainly by footpaths, through Speldhurst and by Pound's Bridge : the distance is about six miles. Or he may take the train to Penshurst Station, and walk thence by road and through the park to the Place or Castle, and thence by Red Leaf and Chiddingstone to Hever ; in this case he may return by rail from Hever Station, on the Oxted Line, L.B. & S.C.R., it being about a mile from the Castle. There are village inns, where luncheon may be had with comfort, at Penshurst, Chiddingstone and Hever. A pleasant way to go is



Garden View at Penshurst.

by one of the breaks which start from either Smith's or Cole's Fly Offices, London Road, and run during the summer to Penshurst and Bayham on the days these places are open to visitors. If the visitor should prefer his own or a more private conveyance to ride or drive, he should take the Tonbridge Road, through Southborough, and turn to the left at Bound's Corner. The drive along the crest of Bidborough Ridge commands views unsurpassed in Kent, and the descent into Penshurst is strikingly picturesque. The return should be by Pound's Bridge, Speldhurst, and Langton ; or better still, by South Park, Fordcombe Green, and Crockhurst Hatch Corner. To visit both Penshurst and Hever will be found the work of a long summer day.



Penshurst Place.

To the antiquarian, the scholar, and the patriot, Penshurst has attractions with which few places in Kent can vie. It is enough to say of it that it was the home of the Sidneys—a family that reflected lustre even upon the annals of England.

The visitor will observe in the little village street the magnificent bole of an old elm tree. This marks the public entrance to the church and to the Place. He passes under the curious old church-house, a building dating from the latter part of the fifteenth century, where, according to Mr. Parker, the village guild or club was anciently domiciled. He now finds himself in the churchyard. The present church was rebuilt in 1850, although some portions are probably old. The interior has been re-fitted with much taste; and the effect is good and the accommodation comfortable. There is a very elegant modern

pulpit which deserves attention. It is the monuments, however, which constitute the chief interest of the place. Of these, the oldest is a mutilated effigy of Sir Stephen de Penchester, who was lord of this place in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. There are monuments to the memory of Sir William Sidney, the first of the name who owned Penshurst; of Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester, and his countess; and to later members of the family. In the chancel, on the north wall, and on the floor are brasses, curious but not very ancient, on which the visitor may read for his amusement some edifying rhymes. There are memorial brasses to William Darknoll, 1590; to John Palivater, 1577; to John Bust; to Pawle Yden, 1564; and to Thomas Bulleyn, brother of Anne. This last is a small cruciform brass. In the Sidney Chapel, where are some of the above brasses, will be observed a graceful statue in white marble, by Theed, to the first Lady de L'Isle and Dudley, daughter of William IV.

There are also modern brasses, with interesting inscriptions, to the memory of Lord Hardinge and Lord Denman, who both resided in this parish.

The footpath to Penshurst Place is through the churchyard, and past the western front of the building; but if the visitor come from the railway station, he will enter by a lodge gate and walk through the south-west corner of the park. The park was anciently far more extensive than now: it is said to have been at one time more than twelve miles in circumference; it comprises now only 200 acres. The timber massed at various points is still very picturesque, though the visitor may look in vain for the

> "Taller tree of which a nut was set
> At *his* great birth where all the Muses met."
> "The sacred mark
> Of noble Sidney's birth."

There remains, however, a gigantic tree, twenty-two feet in

circumference, known as the Penshurst Oak, or the Bear's Oak, probably from the bear and staff, the badge of the Dudleys. A very pretty avenue on the left, as you approach the house, is known as Saccharissa's Walk. A group of trees is pointed out as Lady Gamage's Bower, from Barbara Gamage, Countess of Leicester, who was wont at this spot to feed some favourite deer. The sheet of water in the park is known as Lancup Well. There was formerly a heronry in Penshurst Park.

Penshurst has been the seat of a great family ever since the Norman Conquest. For two centuries after that event it was held by a family bearing the name of Penchester, who evidently enjoyed the confidence of the Norman kings, as appears from the fact that more than once the head of the family held the office of Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports.

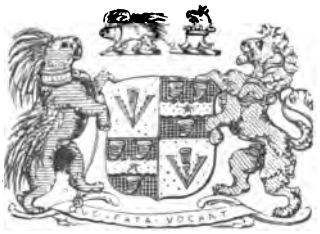
In the fourteenth century the place passed into the hands of Sir John de Pultney, who was four times Lord Mayor of London. He obtained licence, in the fifteenth year of Edward III., to crenellate this his mansion at Penshurst. This fact fixes the date of the older part of the building now in existence at the middle of the fourteenth century. It is to this period that antiquarians unhesitatingly assign the great hall and some other subsidiary portions of the mansion.

By reversion, descent, or grant from the Crown, Penshurst passed successively into many different hands. In the sixteenth year of Richard II., 1393, Sir John Devereux obtained a licence to enlarge the house and improve the fortifications; a fact accounted for by the disturbed condition of Kent at that time. The Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Warwick, and Sir Ralph Fane successively came into possession of this domain; and upon the death of the last-named owner, who was hanged for treason in the sixth year of Edward VI., Penshurst lapsed to the Crown.

Sir William Sidney was a valiant soldier, who fought at Flodden Field against the Scots, and was in favour with his sovereign, Henry VIII. As a reward for his services, the young King Edward granted to Sir William this manor of Penshurst.* His son, Sir Henry Sidney, a distinguished statesman and soldier, who served Elizabeth, not only in England, but also in Wales and Ireland, made large additions to the Place, and built the gate-tower, on which may still be read the following inscription :—

> The most religiovs and renowned Prince Edward the Sixt, King of England, France, and Ireland, gave this Hovse of Pencester, with the Mannors, Landes, and Appvretenavnces there vnto belonging vnto his trvstye and well beloved Servant, Sir William Sydney, Knight, Bannoret, servinge him from the tyme of his Birth vnto his Coronation in the Offices of Chamberlayne and Stvarde of his Hovshold, in commemoration of which most worthie and famovs King, Syr Henrye Sydney, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, Lord President of the Covnsell, established in the Marches of Wales. Sonne and Heyer to the afore-named Syr William, cavsd this Tower to be bvylded and that most excellent Princes Arms to be erected. Anno Domini, 1585.

Sir Philip Sidney (son of Sir Henry) died soon after his father, and Penshurst came to Sir Robert, who was created by James I., Lord Sidney, Viscount de L'Isle, and Earl of Leicester. Two of his grandchildren are known to fame :—Dorothy Sidney, celebrated by Waller, as the "Saccharissa" of his poetry, and Algernon Sidney, the patriot, who was beheaded in 1683. Penshurst was the early home of both these personages. The earldom became extinct with the death of Jocelyne, an imbecile, in 1742.



"WHITHER THE FATES CALL ME."

* A copy of the grant of the Manor of Penshurst to Sir William Sidney in the sixth year of Edward VI., is in the British Museum.—Addl. MSS., 5489, fol. 137.

The property descended in the female line to the Perrys, and then in the same manner to the Bysshe Shelleys. The present possessor is descended from the Shelleys, but his father took the name of Sidney, and was ennobled by the title of Baron de L'Isle and Dudley.

The most illustrious name associated with Penshurst is that of Sir Philip Sidney, who was born here in the year 1554; the son of Sir Henry Sidney and Lady Mary his wife, daughter of the Duke of Northumberland, and sister to Robert, Earl of Leicester, and favourite of Queen Elizabeth. The character and life of Sir Philip Sidney are a tempting theme, but it would be beyond the province of a "Guide" to enlarge upon what would well occupy a chapter at the least. It must suffice to observe that there is reason to believe that part of Sir Philip's childhood was passed at Penshurst, that much of the scenery of "Arcadia" was probably drawn from the memory of the beautiful country in which the author was reared, and that after his father's death Penshurst was, though for a very short period (for he himself died on the 17th of October, 1586, only five months after his father), the property of this distinguished ornament of our national history.

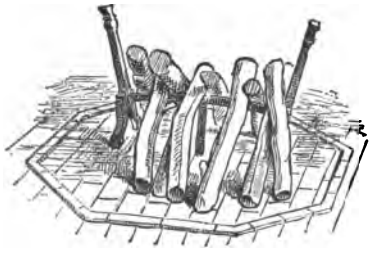


Gateway leading to Baronial Hall.

The visitor with archæological tastes will find in Penshurst Place a study which will amply repay his careful attention. The reader who wishes intelligently to enjoy his visit, and to

throw himself back in imagination into the distant past, and to see the old place live its olden life again, will thank us for the following extract from a lecture delivered at Penshurst itself—on the occasion of a summer gathering of the Kent Archæological Society—by Mr. J. H. Parker, author of the "Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages in England:"—

"They had there, then, a perfect example of a wealthy gentleman's house of the time of Edward III., or A.D. 1341, and it was most valuable as showing the manners and customs of that period. The house was really perfect as originally built, with the exception only of the kitchen, and probably some of the towers; though large additions have been made to it from time to time. The most important feature in the original building was, of course, the great hall, which remained almost unaltered, with its very fine open timber roof and decorated mouldings. Such a roof and such mouldings are not to be found anywhere out of England. The fine windows of the hall, with their very remarkable decorated tracery, were again essentially English; and the particular kind of tracery here presented to their notice was called "Kentish tracery," it consisting of a square opening in the head, with foliation. The windows are also crossed with transome bars, embattled—another peculiarity unknown in foreign countries. It was singular that in England alone the battlement (no doubt originating for the purpose of actual defence) should have been commonly used as an ornament in all sorts of situations. In the centre of the hall there was the original hearth or reredos—almost the only one remaining. By the side of this hearth they had still the andirons or "fire-dogs," for arranging logs of wood upon the hearth, over which at one time was an opening in the roof, with a small ornamented turret to cover it, called a smoke louvre. It was a mistake to suppose that fire-places and chimneys were unknown in this country until the fifteenth century; many of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were to be found in the chambers, but it was not customary to use them in the hall till the fifteenth. On each side of this hall they might see tables and benches



which, if not contemporaneous with it, were certainly among the earliest pieces of furniture in England. The trestles or legs had every appearance of belonging to the time of Edward III., having decorated mouldings. There



Interior of Baronial Hall.

was no doubt a similar table on the raised platform at the upper end of the hall, where the lord and his more honoured guests were placed; the side tables in the lower part of the hall being for the domestics and retainers and

guests of that class. At the opposite end of the daïs was a staircase leading to the solar or upper chamber, and by the side of this another door leading to the cellar; this was originally the lower chamber under the solar, but afterwards there was often a short passage to the cellar, which was sometimes underground; and the original cellar, or lower chamber, became the parlour. But there were always two chambers, one over the other, behind the daïs. The upper room was the lord's chamber, and from it there was usually a look-out into the hall. It should be remembered that in England, in the middle ages, the distinction between bedrooms and sitting rooms was unknown. The chamber was used for both purposes, the bed serving for a couch or ottoman to sit upon during the day, and to sleep upon at night; and these facts furnished an answer to the frequent enquiry where the bedrooms were in mediæval houses. One leading principle in the arrangement of all these houses was, that the hall was the central part of the building, and formed the separation between the servants' apartments and those of the family; the latter consisting always of the two great chambers before described, and commonly of several chambers in the towers. At the opposite or lower end of the hall was the music gallery, which was still perfect, and a fine example of wooden paneling. Under this was a passage through the mansion, parted off from the great hall by a "screen," and consequently called the "screens." In the passage was the lavatory or place for washing the hands before dinner, the mediæval fashion being to pour water upon them from the ewer. At one end of the "screens" was the porch or principal entrance to the hall, and over it a small chamber; and a second chamber at the opposite end of the "screens," over another doorway or porch, opening into the servants' court at the back of the hall. The exterior of the hall and the porches were as well worthy of attention as the interior, being altogether a fine example of architecture at the time of Edward III. In the passage were also three side doors, according to the general custom of the age—one leading to the buttery, or place for giving out the beer or other drinks; and another to the pantry, where the bread and other dry stores are given out, except the meat, which came direct from the kitchen, by a passage between the buttery and pantry. The kitchen was usually a half detached building, and commonly composed of wood, which would account for that at Penshurst being destroyed. At the two angles of the hall, at the kitchen end, there were probably towers, one of which still remained. Behind the music gallery, and over the buttery and pantry, was another large room called the guest chamber. The chapel was usually near the daïs and lord's chamber,

sometimes merely parted off at the end of the latter, with a staircase leading from the daïs. At Penshurst this part of the house had been so much altered in the Elizabethan and subsequent periods, that the chapels could not be traced, but the great width of the hall would allow of sufficient width, both for the solar and the chapel at this end. Thus they might form a tolerable idea of the original house of Penshurst in the time of Edward III." *

The armour, mostly of the time of Elizabeth and James I., which formerly hung around the walls, has been removed for its better preservation to the private apartments. These matchlocks and breastplates and helmets are all that remain of a "noble collection—suits of the Sidneys from generation to "generation—which disappeared about fifty years since; about "which time also the greater part of the Sidney correspondence, "preserved in the evidence chamber, found its way to the hands "of London collectors, under the auspices of the ingenious Mr. "Ireland, then a frequent visitor to Penshurst." † There is a two-handed sword, sometimes said to be that of Sir Philip Sidney.

A very ancient stone staircase leads from the hall to the suite of state rooms. These were for a long time in a dilapidated, neglected condition, but have been lately restored with excellent taste by the present proprietor of Penshurst. Floors have been relaid, and the apartments have resumed a cheerful and habitable appearance.

The rooms shown to the public are the ball room, which contains two antique cut-glass chandeliers—the gift of Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Sidney—the pages' room, Queen Elizabeth's drawing room, the tapestry room, the second page's ante-room, and the picture gallery, a narrow apartment 90ft. in length, with a curious recess and window. These rooms are all

* From the report in the *Tunbridge Wells Gazette* of the meeting of the Kent Archæological Society, at Penshurst, in July, 1863.

† Murray's "Handbook of Kent."

low pitched, according to our modern standard, and not well lighted, but are extremely interesting, especially from their historical associations, and from the numerous pictures with which the walls are decorated. The present Lord de L'Isle has had many of the paintings cleaned and restored; they were long neglected, and some were irretrievably damaged.

The collection is chiefly composed of portraits, a large number of which represent members of the Sidney family and their connections. There are two portraits of Sir Philip; one, very beautiful, representing him when a young man, the oval face being very noble and thoughtful; the other depicting him as a boy, standing with his brother Robert beside him, both in the very odd costume of the period. There is a portrait of Algernon Sidney; with a book labelled "Libertas," symbolizing the cause for which he lived; and the tower and the headsman's axe, reminding of the manner in which he died.

The visitor may, at his leisure and fancy, people the galleries with the Dudleys, the Sidneys, and the Shelleys of by-gone generations; and will be assisted by the family badges—porcupine, broad arrow, bear and staff—conspicuous at every turn; and by the long series of *effigies* around him, from the hands of successive masters from Holbein down to Vandyke, and then from Lely down to Lawrence. It is a microcosm of English history; the grim old Constable of Queenborough Castle makes way for the stalwart swordsman of Flodden Field; the Lord of the Welsh Marches and Governor of Ireland leads on the type of chivalry,

> "Than whom no greater, braver man
> His own delightful genius ever feigned
> Illustrating the groves of Arcady
> With courteous courage and with loyal love."

The noble lady who helped to dream "Arcadia," and who was herself "the subject of all verse," survives the dart of Time.



By permission of **QUEEN ELIZABETH'S ROOM.** *Carl Norman & Co.*

The love-lorn poet pours his artificial praise into the unsympathising ear of "Saccharissa,"—"matchless dame,"—as they together pace a lordly beechen avenue, or turn to admire the graceful deer. The beauty gives her name again to the favourite bower, or gazes on her features mirrored in the secluded pool. The patriot comes, musing on the death of liberty and the freeman's fruitful doom. The baron's board is piled with the smoking feast; the court-yard rings with the clash of partisans, and glitters with the sheen of steel. The cavaliers and ladies move in grave array through the measures of the dance, marked by the stately music of the olden time. The centuries pass in silent procession before our eyes—we awake, and behold it is a dream!

There are several houses of some importance within a short distance of Penshurst Place. RED LEAF was formerly the seat of Mr. Wells, and then contained a very remarkable collection of modern pictures, including many by the late Sir Edwin Landseer, who was a frequent visitor here, but these were sold a few years ago and fetched very high prices. The present house was built by the late Mr. Hill; a son being the present owner of the estate.



"AN EQUAL MIND IN DIFFICULTIES."

HAMMERFIELD, for many years the residence of the late James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer. He died a few years ago and bequeathed a large sum to various charities. SOUTH PARK, formerly a part of the Penshurst Estate, is the seat of Lord Hardinge, the son of the Indian Commander, the first lord, who lies buried in the neighbouring churchyard of Fordcombe Green.



Old Houses in Chiddingstone Village.

CHIDDINGSTONE is the seat of the ancient family of the Streatfeilds; the church in the tiny village is unusually interesting, and the inn and some other houses hard by are pretty

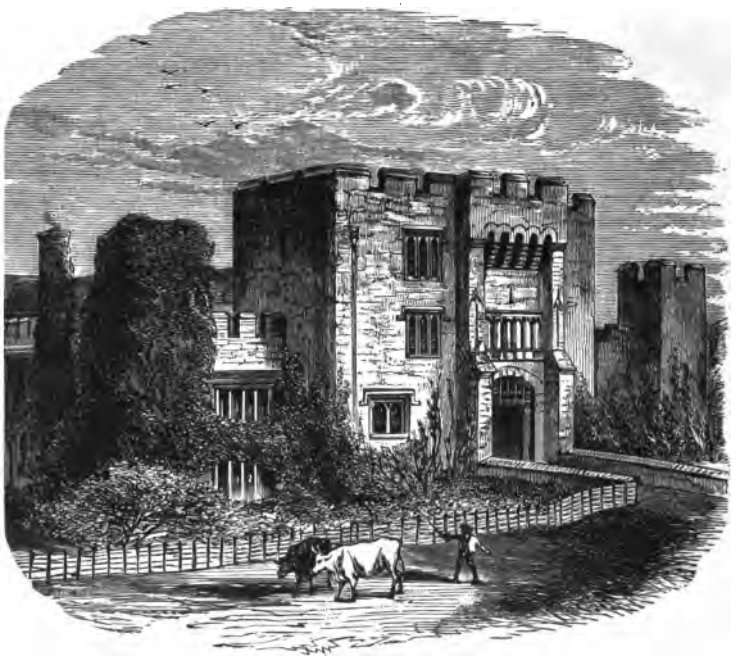


The Chiding-Stone.

specimens of old Kentish architecture. HALL PLACE, at Leigh, was the seat of the late S. Morley, Esq., M.P. The present mansion replaces an older one upon the same site.

HEVER CASTLE.

HEVER CASTLE, some rooms only of which are open to visitors on Wednesdays, from eleven to five, is four miles beyond Penshurst, and may be reached by rail from the L.B. & S.C. Station, Tunbridge Wells (Oxted Line), and it has interest both as a



Entrance Gateway and Portcullis.

specimen of a country gentleman's dwelling of the Early Tudor period, and as associated with the history of King Henry VIII. The original house was built in the reign of Edward III., by Sir William Hevre, who was Sheriff of Kent, and obtained permission to embattle his manor-house. In the reign of Henry VI. it was purchased by Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, a rich mercer and Lord

Mayor of London, who began the present edifice, which was completed by his grandson. It was this latter, Sir Thomas Boleyn, who was father of the famous Anne, around whom has raged so much historical and ecclesiastical contention. Here Anne Boleyn was educated, and acquired those accomplish-



Anne Boleyn's Chamber, at the time of the Boleyns.

ments which recommended her to a place in the suite of the Princess Mary, when she went as a bride to France. It was at Hever that the royal lover was wont to visit the young beauty and prosecute his suit. It is traditionally believed that on these occasions buglers were stationed upon the neighbouring hills to announce the approach of Henry when

he was discerned descending the opposite hills, on his way from Greenwich or Eltham. And it is also a tradition that such was the miriness of the roads round Hever, that sometimes the King was compelled to summon help from the castle to extricate him from the slough.

Anne's father was, during the royal favour, raised to the peerage; after his death, Henry seized Hever in right of his late consort, and at a later period granted it to the repudiated Anne of Cleves, as her residence for the remainder of her life.

Hever Castle occupies a low site in a valley, and is surrounded by a moat fed by the river Eden. The approach is very striking; the imposing gateway has its battlements, machicolations, and portcullis. Towers, gables, loopholes, and mullioned windows present a curious admixture, certainly leaving a pleasing impression on the imagination. There is a very long narrow panelled gallery, which has some interest; there are also apartments connected with the names of Henry's two Queens Anne. Some stained glass may be seen with the arms of the Bullens, Butlers and Howards. The greater part of the building is never shown to strangers, being occupied as a farm-house.

EXCURSION II.—TO TONBRIDGE.

Between five and six miles north from the Wells is the ancient town of Tonbridge. The visitor may go either by the railroad which runs through the valley, or by the coach-road which passes through Southborough and descends from Bounds by Quarry Hill. The high-road commands a magnificent view northwards.

Tonbridge is situated on the river Medway, here divided into five branches. From the bridges by which these streams are crossed the town is reputed to take its name—The Town of

Bridges. The town extends for a mile in length, and has new suburbs at the two extremities; in the neighbourhood of the now vanished Priory on the southern side, and to the north about an estate denominated Dry Hill Park.

The most interesting objects for the visitor to Tonbridge are the Grammar School and the Castle. The old church, though



By permission of] *Tonbridge—Old Houses, High St.* [Carl Norman & Co.

spacious, has little deserving of attention. It has recently been restored at a large cost. The last ruins of the ancient Priory were demolished when the railway was constructed.

The Free Grammar School at Tonbridge, in Kent, was founded in 1553, in the reign of King Edward VI., by Sir Andrew Judde, citizen and skinner of London. The ancestors

of Sir Andrew Judde had long been settled at Tonbridge; but he went to London and became a merchant, dealing mostly in furs, which at that period were a regal and costly ornament. To procure this commodity, the skinners of Edward VI.'s reign embarked in their own ships, and made their way by the Baltic to Russia, thence pursuing their enterprise overland as far eastward as the shores of the Caspian Sea, Tartary, and Persia. There is a curious epitaph still existing in the church of St. Helen. Bishopsgate, where Sir Andrew was buried, which speaks of his commercial and domestic adventures.

Sir Andrew Judde appears to have amassed considerable wealth, and to have become an influential member of the Guild of Skinners. He was Master of the Company several times; he was made first Sheriff and then Lord Mayor of London in the fourth year of Edward VI.'s reign, A.D. 1550; and, according to Strype's "History of London," he showed when in office, "a princely munificence and hospitality."

Having thus attained social position and wealth, Sir Andrew turned his thoughts to the benefit of his native town; and in the year after his mayoralty he purchased lands near London. with which to endow the Free School at Tonbridge. A charter for the settlement of the property was granted to him by King Edward VI., dated 1553, and by this charter the Company of Skinners in London, and their successors, were constituted trustees of the land and governors of the School for ever.

The principal estate thus devised to the School is one which was called the "Sand Hills," in the then small village of St. Pancras, near London; but it is now covered with houses to the extent of thirty acres, and let under long leases, which will expire at no distant date. When they do so, the endowment of Tonbridge School will be one of the most valuable in the kingdom. The prospective revenues of Tonbridge School have

been variously estimated at from £20,000 to £80,000 annually. Even at the present time the School is well endowed, and takes rank among the great public schools of England. It was one of the first founded after the Reformation, and the statutes for its regulation were drawn up and signed by Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Alexander Nowell, the famous Dean of St. Paul's.

The School Fees are as follows :

TUITION (to be paid in advance)—
Foundationers ... under 13, £16 per annum; over 13, £20.
Non-Foundationers under 13, £24 ,, over 13, £30.
Entrance Fee, £3. Registration, 5s.

FOUNDATIONERS are those whose Parents are bonâ-fide Residents within ten miles of Tonbridge Parish Church.

Games Subscription, 7s. per term (Juniors 5s.), and "Tonbridgian" 1/6, are paid by all boys.

BOARDING (to be paid in advance)—Under 13, £60 per annum; over 13, £66.

Laundress, £1 per term. Extra Breakfast, £1 1s. per term.
Medical Attendance and Sanatorium, 12s. per term.

OPTIONAL CHARGES—Organ, Piano, or Singing, £2 per term. Violin, £1 10s. Workshops and use of Tools, £1 per term. Volunteer Corps, 10s. per term. Private Study, £1 per term.

No charge is made for working in any of the Laboratories, nor for material used therein, for instruction in Drawing or Gymnastics, for Army Class, Library, or Stationery.

At the visitation of the Skinners, which comes round every year in the month of July, the public examination of the scholars takes place with much formality. The examiner is nominated by All Souls' College, Oxford, and several Exhibitions are awarded annually in July to boys leaving the School. There are also scholarships open to all, which if obtained go to considerably lessen the cost of education. A list of both of these, and other information, may be had on application to the Head Master, the Rev. Joseph Wood, D.D., School House, Tonbridge, or to the secretary of the school.

The head master and other masters receive pupils as boarders.

Tonbridge Free Grammar School has had a fair proportion of distinguished masters and scholars. The first master was John Proctor, who wrote a history of "Wyatt's Rebellion." Drs. Horne, Gray, Goad, Wade, Cawthorne, and Knox, were some of the most noted of the masters. Francis Tynne, author of several works; Robert Heath, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; Thomas Cooke, of Pembroke, First Plenipotentiary of the Treaty of Ryswick; Sir Nash Grose, Judge of the Court of King's Bench; Woodfall, the editor of the *Public Advertiser;* Lord Eardley; Lord Whitworth, Ambassador Extraordinay to Paris in the time of Napoleon I.; Sir Anthony Hart, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Sir Sidney Smith, the Hero of Acre; Dr. E. D. Clarke, the traveller; Sir John Jervis, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, are some of the more noted among the former scholars of Tonbridge.

The new school building, with its extensive play-grounds and gardens, and the residences of the masters, occupies many acres of ground, and forms the leading feature of the town of Tonbridge. The greatly increased demand for admission to the school rendered an enlargement of it extremely desirable; and during the year 1865, the old building was taken down, and the governors erected in its place the present handsome edifice, from the designs of Mr. Edward H. Burnell, providing ample accommodation for a much larger number of scholars. The large schoolroom is a spacious, well-lighted, and handsome hall; the chapel is a gem of architecture; the class-rooms of the several masters are well-suited to their purpose; the dining hall must look well when the boys are seated at table; and the cubicles (as the sleeping compartments on the upper storey are academically denominated) are models of comfort. The whole building is warmed with hot water. The playground is very

extensive, and includes space for five several games of cricket, and also a tennis court. Further additions and extensions have recently been made.

There is now a Commercial School opened in connection with the Skinners' School, which provides a sound commercial education to boys who may not be destined to professional life.



By permission of] *Tonbridge Castle.* [Carl Norman & Co.

Separate school buildings have been erected in the town, having ample accommodation and conveniences for a large number of scholars. The Master is W. J. D. Bryant, Esq.

The chronicles of Tonbridge Castle might fill a volume, so many have been its owners, and so varied its fortunes. To this possession was attached in Norman times the *leuca* or *lowy* of Tonbridge, extending over many square miles, and comprising

vast deer chases. It is said that when the Fitzgilbert took Tonbridge in exchange for a Norman estate from Archbishop Lanfranc, he gave the *leuca* of Brionne in Normandy and took a corresponding *leuca* in Kent! As a consequence of this transaction the Lords of Tonbridge became the hereditary high-stewards and chief butlers of the Archiepiscopal See, and attended officially at the enthronization of each successive metropolitan.

Tonbridge continued in this family until the death of the last De Clare at Bannockburn. A Richard De Clare was one of the barons who opposed King John. The castle was besieged and taken by Henry III., as the stronghold of an insurrectionary Gilbert of the same warlike house. It has since passed through the hands of Audleys and Staffords, Dudleys, Cardinal Pole, Careys, and Berkeleys, and the less-known families of Hookers and Woodgates, and is now the property of Jerningham, Lord Stafford.

What remains of the ancient Castle of Tonbridge is of extreme interest; but it will be of little avail to describe the ruins, as they are not shown to the stranger. The massive entrance tower remains in a fair state of preservation, and is deemed one of the finest examples extant of the castle architecture of its period—the early decorated, from 1280 to 1300. There was a drawbridge over the outer fosse (now filled up), and the place for the windlass to raise it is still visible. Under the first archway are three machicolations for precipitating boiling metal on any adversary who succeeded in crossing the fosse to attack the door. Next was an enormous portcullis; then, between that and a pair of strong gates, three more machicolations above, and lateral loop-holes to thrust spears or propel arrows against besiegers of the inner gates, after they had broken or burnt the portcullis. Beyond is a large area, and


HARTFIELD.
TONBRIDGE.
SCOTNEY CASTLE.
SPELDHURST
CHIDDINGSTONE.

other machicolations above, and side entrances (each defended with portcullis and iron door) to small apartments, one, perhaps, a chapel. Narrow loop-holes are cut in the thick walls to repel with impunity assailants in front; other loop-holes looking to the inside of the castle are wider, because more secure from danger and missiles, and are intended to admit air and light. Hence a circular staircase winds to the top of the tower. The lower rooms are thirteen feet high, and the walls in some parts five and a-half feet thick. Underneath were dungeons, only accessible through traps in the floor; and lighted by two narrow flues opening to the air a few feet above ground.

The state room seems to have been magnificent and of great extent, including the whole area of the space below. The principal windows, seen from the inner front, are richly ornamented. Turning to the right, and proceeding by a winding path, the inner moat may be observed. Near the entrance towers is a mound, seventy feet above the area, on the summit of which was the keep, covering an acre of ground. The upper part of the wall and the keep have disappeared; flowers and ivy now mantle the ruined donjon. An ascent of eight steps leads to the inside of the watch tower. A water-gate seems to have connected the castle with the Medway. Close to the ruins is now a residence.

EXCURSION III.—TO KNOLE AND IGHTHAM.

A more charming ride or drive there is not in England than to Sevenoaks by Tonbridge, thence by Seal to Ightham Mote, and home by Shipbourne, but as Ightham is open only on Fridays, this must be the day chosen for the excursion. The best arrangement for the day's excursion will be this:—

Start not later than ten, enjoy a leisurely ride up River Hill, turning and pausing to enjoy the glorious view over the Weald

of Kent, put up at Sevenoaks, at the Crown or the Royal Oak, both capital inns, and order luncheon. Then while the horses bait, stroll into the park (seven and a-half miles in circuit), where is some of the finest timber in Kent, and view the front of the house. Return to the inn by half-past one, and, after luncheon, ride to Ightham Mote (not Ightham village), which should be reached at half-past three. There are two roadside inns, at one



Knole House.

of which the horses can be put for an hour, while the moated house in the neighbouring dell is visited. Then to saddle again at five, and arrive at home at the Wells in time for dinner. Though peculiarly suitable for a small riding party, this programme will serve almost as well for a carriage drive.

Those pressed for time can travel to Sevenoaks by rail; in this case the visit to Ightham must be abandoned.

Sevenoaks is a prettily situated town, the church and alms-houses of which need not detain the visitor from the one great

attraction of the place, Knole Park and House, approached by a short walk from the main street.

Knole House was used as a residence in King John's reign, when it belonged to William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke. The



Porters' Lodge.

family of Say and Seal were in possession of it in Henry VIII.'s time. Archbishop Bourchier is accredited with building the greatest part of the present mansion. Archbishop Cranmer lived there for some years, and there is still a room called after his name. This regal House and outbuildings cover nearly four acres of grounds, and there are 365 rooms, 52 staircases

and 540 windows in it, some of these being still glazed with talc.

The Park around the House comprises about 1,000 acres of beautifully wooded land.

The present owner is Baron Sackville, and by his kindness the House is now open to the public every Friday from 10



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to 5, and on Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 to 5 ; also on every Bank Holiday. A fee of 2/- each is charged ; parties of six, 10/- ; parties of 20, £1.

The *Hall* is seventy-five feet long, thirty broad, and twenty high. The initials of Henry VIII., and the Boleyn family, are



(Copyright). By [illegible]

THE GREEN COURT.

C. Essenhigh Corke.

inscribed on the brand-irons, and the long oaken table was used for the game of shovel-board. The most notable picture is one by Porbus, of the Brothers Coligny.

The *Brown or Reformers' Gallery*, eighty-eight feet long, chiefly contains portraits of the reformers and illustrious characters of the time of Henry VIII. (see page 202).

In *Lady Betty Germain's Room*, the bedstead is of great antiquity.

In the *Spangled Bedroom* the bed and hangings are embroidered with spangles. James II. gave nearly all the contents of this chamber, in which the brand-irons are of brass, to the Earl of Middlesex, and through his family they descended to the Dorset.

The *Venetian Bedroom*. In anticipation of King James II. honouring the mansion with his presence, the magnificent state bed, with its green velvet hangings, was prepared. The King, however, is said not to have kept the appointment.

The *Ball Room* is hung with portraits of those who have owned Knole since the time of Queen Elizabeth, the most striking being one by Vandyke of Edward Sackville, 4th Earl of Dorset. The fire-place is of the renaissance period. The Sèvres service was presented by Napoleon I. The ceiling in this room should be noticed, as also the one in the Cartoon Gallery.

The *Organ Room* and *Chapel* are worth inspection.

The *Reynolds Room* contains 17 specimens of Sir Joshua Reynolds, many painted at Knole by the artist, for his friend the Duke of Dorset; two Gainsboroughs and two very fine Hoppners. The fire-place is worthy of attention with its two silver fire-dogs.

In the *Cartoon Gallery* there are copies, by Mytens, of six of Raphael's cartoons, which were presented by Charles I. It

also contains paintings by Kneller and others; and the following casts from the Florentine Gallery:—The Boxers, the Dancing Faun, the Listening Slave, Vindecius, and Venus de Medici. The windows contain the coats of arms showing the alliances of the Sackville family. An old chest in this room belonged to Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, when High Treasurer.



"DAY OF MY LIFE."

The *King's Bedroom* was fitted up for the accommodation of James I. The tapestry with which it is hung illustrates the career of Nebuchadnezzar. The state bed, with its drapery of gold and silver tissue, is said to have cost the enormous sum of £8,000, and the remaining furniture of the room cost £12,000. There are some beautiful specimens of silver work here.

The other rooms, being private apartments, used by the family, are not now shown.

Neighbouring seats are Montreal (Earl Amherst's), The Wilderness (Sir C. H. Mills', M.P.), and Chevening (Lord Stanhope's).

IGHTHAM MOTE.

This most interesting and perfect specimen of the Old English moated manor house is situated in a wooded dell on the left of the road leading from Shipbourne Green to Ightham. Ightham Mote is open to the public every Friday, fee 6d. each person; hours, 11 a.m. till 1, and 3 to 6 p.m. It anciently belonged to the De Hauts, has for some centuries been in the possession of the Selbys, and the late Major-General Luard acquired the place through his marriage with the heiress of that family. The present owner is T. C. Colyer Fergusson, Esq., who has made it residential.

It has been mentioned that there are two small inns at the



spot where the private road branches off, where horses and carriages can be put up if the party are disposed to walk to

the Mote; or a carriage can even be driven down the steep and narrow woodland lane, if the walk of less than a mile should appear formidable.

The visitor may fancy himself to have stepped back some three or four centuries as he approaches this venerable and beautiful, and yet home-like and loveable retreat. The walls of the dwelling rise on all four sides sheer out of the water. The house is approached by a stone bridge leading to the main gateway. Entering this, the visitor finds himself within a graceful quadrangle, an engraving of which is given on page 206; the grassy court and the gay flowers contrast with the sober-tinted walls. Before him is the hall, one of the most ancient portions of the edifice, dating from the time of Edward II. "Remark "the central stone arch, which resembles those of Mayfield "in Sussex. The mouldings are Dec., and differ in no respect "from those of the other principals, which are of wood. The "doorways are also original; the fireplace and windows *temp.* "Henry VIII."* On the left is the chapel, upstairs, pronounced by Mr. Parker "a very perfect and interesting example of the "domestic chapel of that period," *i.e. temp.* Henry VIII. Another feature worthy of attention is a small room now used as a cellar, which has a beautiful groined roof and also a window looking on the moat. The apartments inhabited by the family are, of course, not shown to strangers; but, though for the most part small, they realize one's idea of the substantial and yet elegant abode of the English gentleman of the olden times. The brick gateway tower over the entrance is deserving of attention. "The Elizabethan work consists mainly of the "large quadrangle outside the moat, entirely built of timber, "and containing the stables, in which there is said to have "been room for 300 horses." *

* Murray's Handbook.

The skill in tapestry of Dorothy Selby is celebrated in the following quaint couplet, which may be read on her monument in Ightham Church :—

"Whose pen of steel and silken ink enrolled
The acts of Jonah in records of gold!"

At Oldberry Hill, on Ightham Common, is an entrenchment, containing about 127 acres, which is often denominated a Roman camp, but which is considered by antiquarians to be a British fortification.

EXCURSION IV.—TO MEREWORTH.

The drive to Mereworth is by Tonbridge and Hadlow. The only noticeable object at Hadlow is the prospect tower attached to Hadlow Castle, a lofty erection 90ft. in height, and visible from every point of view within many miles.

Mereworth Castle is so called because it occupies the site of an older fortified dwelling, to which that term was justly applicable. Mereworth has been the seat of many noble families in succession ; the best known being the Abergavenny and the Westmoreland families. The situation of the house is charming, amidst woodland and pasture : it is surrounded by a fine moat.

The drive through the Mereworth Woods to Malling will be thoroughly appreciated by the admirer of woodland scenery, the neighbouring parishes of Yalding, Wateringbury, Peckham, and Farleigh, are famous for the growth of hops ; an opportunity of exploring the beauties of the hop-gardens in September should by no means be lost. This is the finest hop country in Kent.

EXCURSION V.—TO SOMERHILL.

The following will be found a most agreeable ride or drive, and will occupy about two hours. Follow the Tonbridge Road

as far as a lane on the right, beyond Southborough Green. Turn down the lane, which winds through very pretty country, and is bordered in the spring with a profusion of wild flowers. You will come out on the high road by the "Vauxhall" Inn. Turn to the right, and almost immediately enter the Somerhill Park by the lodge on the left. By the courtesy of the owner, Mrs. d'Avigdor, visitors are allowed to drive through the very pretty park—the timber, lake, and lodges of which will certainly be admired. Leaving the house on the left, you re-enter the main road from Tonbridge to Pembury and Hastings by another lodge. Soon after passing through the turnpike, enter Colebrook Park by a lodge on the right; if the visitor has a private carriage, or is on horseback, he may pass (by Mr. Smith's kind permission) through the Park. Bearing to the left, and passing many noble trees and beautiful shrubs, you will emerge upon Blackhurst Lane by another lodge gate, and may return to Tunbridge Wells by the Pembury Road. There is a right of way for foot passengers through the Park.

Somerhill Place is a picturesque house nobly placed. It dates from 1624, and has seen strange vicissitudes of fortune. In the time of the Commonwealth it was granted to Bradshaw, the President of the Commission by which Charles I. was tried and sentenced. At the Restoration era it was the property of Lady Muskerry, and was (as Count de Grammont related) the scene of "high jinks" when the court of Charles II. visited Tunbridge Wells. The house is not shown. The late Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P., was owner of this place, and left it to a nephew who is a minor.

EXCURSION VI.—TO GOUDHURST.

The visitor who delights in such highland scenery as may be found in the south-east of England should endeavour to make

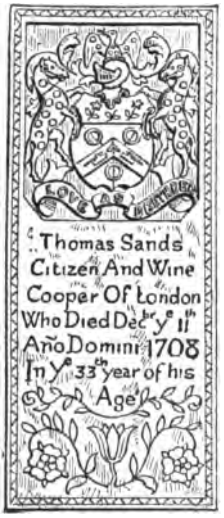
an excursion eastward from Tunbridge Wells. The roads are hilly and heavy, and the country is more suited to pedestrians and to horsemen than to carriages. Passing Pembury Upper Green, leave Lamberhurst on the right, and make for Horsmonden and then for Goudhurst, twelve miles from the Wells. Here you will find yourself on very elevated ground, and if the day be clear you will enjoy such views as are very rarely to be met with. The prospect from the church-tower is wonderfully extensive and beautiful, and should not be missed if the day be clear and fine: it is said that from this point of view no fewer than fifty-seven parish churches may be discerned. The ride may be prolonged to Cranbrook, the capital of the Weald, a neat town with a large perpendicular church. Or, on returning, a detour may be made by Brenchley and Matfield Green. The whole country-side was, in the last century, a famous resort of smugglers. The Priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst parish, is no longer in existence. Goudhurst can be reached now by the S.E. Railway. The Station is about a mile from the village.

EXCURSION VII.—TO WADHURST AND TICEHURST.

There are no seats or churches of high interest in this excursion, but as a drive few can compare with this for breadth of woodland scenery. The road leads through Frant, whence is to be enjoyed a glorious prospect over the glades of Eridge Park. A little beyond Frant Green, the road to the left should be taken, which passes through a very varied country to—

WADHURST, a village two miles from the station of that name on the Hastings railway. In the churchyard are no fewer than thirty iron grave slabs. These are met with in many of the churchyards of this part of Sussex, and are a proof of the comparatively recent activity of the iron foundries

throughout the district. Not one of these foundries is now worked; those established in the northern coal fields of England having altogether superseded the once flourishing iron works of Sussex. Engravings are inserted here of two specimens of Sussex iron work—one a "grave slab," which is in Wadhurst churchyard, and the other a "fire back" in a house in the village of Burwash. There are many of these throughout the county, some having elaborate designs.



One of the last mines worked is in Snape Wood, near this village. The ore, which was excavated as late as 1858, is found in the Ashdown Beds, part was carried to Staffordshire, but, as an old hammer-pond existed where there is now a hop-garden, part was probably smelted in the neighbourhood. A heap of ore lying near one of the openings is worth examining, for masses of shells and pieces of fossilized wood have been found among it. The visitor who cares to explore this mine, which is in good preservation and perfectly safe, will find an intelligent guide not far off at the Miners' Arms, Tidebrook.



TICEHURST, four miles from the station of that name, is said to derive its name from the Saxon fairy, *Tys*, who was believed

to haunt the *hurst* or forest in this wooded neighbourhood. The scenery here is pretty, and the church is of some interest. At Highlands, in this parish, is a large lunatic asylum, where are many insane persons of good social position, under the care of Dr. Newington. It is said that Sir Thomas More was a resident at Highlands, and received there his lord and master, King Henry VIII. In this neighbourhood, but within the borders of Kent, is the beautiful parish of Hawkhurst, one of the most attractive parishes in the county, containing many gentlemen's seats. Here are two fine churches, one old, and the other a modern building of great beauty. At Hawkhurst is an excellent inn.

EXCURSION VIII.—TO BAYHAM ABBEY, LAMBERHURST, AND SCOTNEY CASTLE.

Bayham Abbey (formerly spelt Begeham) is a most picturesque ruin about six miles east from Tunbridge Wells. The visitor may drive over the Forest, by Bell's Yew Green, and through the quiet woodlands to Bayham, and may return by Lamberhurst and Pembury: a more delightful drive cannot be imagined. Or, he may walk through Lord Camden's woods, and by the lake; though for a stranger to the district the pathway is hard to find. The ruins are the property of the Marquis Camden. The late Marquis had just completed a noble mansion on an elevated site near the lake, when he died. The present Lord attained his majority in 1893, and he kindly allows the ruins to be seen on Mondays and Wednesdays, from ten to six o'clock.

Bayham Abbey or Priory was a house of Præmonstratensian canons, first established at Otteham in Sussex, and afterwards at Brockley, and removed here in 1200. "Sir Robert de "Turneham, a great patron of monastic establishments, and

"one who had accompanied Richard I. to the holy wars, with "the consent of the Earl de Clare, his lord, granted to these "canons all his lands at Begeham, in pure and perpetual alms, "for the purpose of building a new Abbey, in honour of God, "and the blessed Virgin Mary, on a spot then called Beaulieu. "Which being effected, the monks from either place, with the "consent of Ela de Sackville, the daughter of their original "founder, moved to this spot, and here permanently established "their community." * "The canons here were in great favour "with the surrounding peasantry, and on the dissolution, after "their first expulsion, a company with painted faces and visors "drove out the commissioners, and put the canons in place "again, though not to remain long." †

The Abbey was eventually ceded to Wolsey, its revenues being designed as a contribution towards the endowment of his intended colleges at Ipswich and Oxford, although they did not exceed £152 yearly. When the Cardinal fell into disgrace, the manor, with the site of the Abbey, was seized by the grasping Defender of the Faith. The estate was afterwards granted by Queen Elizabeth to Viscount Montague. John Pratt, Esq., who became Chief Justice of the King's Bench, bought the property in 1714, and from him it descended to its present owner, John Charles Pratt, 4th Marquis of Camden, born February 9th, 1872, on whom it confers a subordinate title.

The nave of the church is 257ft. long by 24ft. wide, and the width at the transepts is 86ft. There are no side aisles: and the narrow nave was sufficient for an order which cared neither for congregations or processions. It was lighted by windows placed high in the walls. Some of the cloisters, a part of the refectory, and a few cellars also remain. At the north-east extremity are the fragments of a turret staircase which seems to

* Amsinck. † Murray's Handbook.

have communication with a rood-loft, opening probably into the church over the high altar. The following inscription on a stone near this spot, relates to the founder of the Abbey :—

> Ela de Sackville, Davghter of Ralph de Dene, Fovnded this Priere in honovr of St. Marie, in the reign of K. Richard ye First. The grovnd was given bye Syre Richard de Thorneham. The Præmonstratensian Canons of Brockley, with those of Beavliev were incorporated and placed here, and their Charters were confirmed by King John. K. Henrie III., and K. Edw. II. It was dissolved in the Reign of K. Hen. VIII.

The church was entire when these interesting memorials of the monkish ages came into the possession of Chief Justice Pratt. Some buildings or repairs being required on the estate, the steward was guilty of a ruthless piece of Vandalism, for he removed, unknown to his lordship, the roof of the church, and employed the timber and other materials in repairing some part of the property. Thus the tombs of the Abbots and the other monuments were exposed to the dilapidating influences of the atmosphere. Sir Thomas, son of Edward Sackville, and Richard Sackville, Esq., were buried here. Several flat grave-stones within the church, much defaced, are still visible. The interior and cloisters are laid out as a pleasure garden, with lawns and gravel walks. Some remains of the entrance lodge to the precincts still exist. The general character of the architecture is that of the 13th century.

Six miles to the east of Tunbridge Wells is the village of LAMBERHURST, which Cobbett pronounces "one of the most "beautiful villages that man ever set his eyes upon." It is situated on the banks of a stream, which runs through Scotney Park and skirts the ruins, and forms the boundary between Kent and Sussex. The roomy old inns remind the visitor that this was formerly a place of much traffic, being on the high



By permission of **BAYHAM ABBEY.** *Carl Norman & Co.*

road from London to Hastings. The church has a beautiful Perpendicular West Window. The pulpit and reading desk are of carved oak and bears date 1690. In the churchyard is a very old yew tree, 25ft. in girth. Near is Lamberhurst Court Lodge.

Between Bayham and Lamberhurst is the site of Gloucester Furnace, so called from a visit paid to it by the Duke of Gloucester, son of Queen Anne, when visiting Tunbridge Wells in 1698. Here was cast the massive and handsome iron balustrade which formerly enclosed St. Paul's Cathedral: the whole weighed above 200 tons, and cost £11,200. Only part of this is now standing.

The drive to Lamberhurst may be prolonged to Kilndown Church, where is some fine Munich stained glass, well worthy of study. In the graveyard is a fine architectural monument to the memory of Field-Marshal Lord Beresford.

Near is Bedgbury Park, the seat of the late Mr. Beresford Hope.

Of SCOTNEY CASTLE, one of the seats of Archbishop Chicheley, the home of the Darrels, now the property of Mr. Hussey, there remains only one round tower, machicolated. From this tower (the survivor of four) and from the spacious moat, it is easy to imagine that Scotney must, in the old times, have been a right lordly dwelling. The house of the Darrels was designed by Inigo Jones. Mr. Hussey's house is in the Tudor style, and is placed, in accordance with modern taste, upon higher ground. It is built with stone quarried in the garden.

EXCURSION IX.—TO BODIAM CASTLE.

One of the more distant excursions which should not be neglected by the visitor who remains some weeks at Tunbridge

Wells, is that to Bodiam Castle. This ruin stands in a very secluded spot, about half-way between the Wells and Hastings, and about five miles east of the Etchingham Station on the South Eastern Railway. It will be found an agreeable walk or drive from Etchingham : a fly can be hired at the inn adjoining the station. The views from the carriage road in the neighbourhood of Hurst Green and Silver Hill are remarkably extensive and fine. Tickets for viewing the Castle can be had from the Master of the National School, close by Bodiam Gate.

This very picturesque and perfect specimen of the fortress of the Plantagenet period dates from 1386, when Sir Edward Dalyngrudge, who married the heiress of the Wardeux, and who fought at Cressy and Poictiers, obtained letters patent authorizing its erection. It is surrounded by a deep and wide moat, where the visitor may disport himself in a boat which is let for hire. From these waters very fine pike are occasionally taken.

The visitor to Bodiam should spend half-an-hour in inspecting the interesting church of Etchingham. It is in style late decorated, has a central tower, a chancel exceeding the nave in length, and windows with very beautiful tracery.

EXCURSION X.—TO MAYFIELD AND ROTHERFIELD.

Mayfield—anciently spelt *Maighfeild;* Latin, *Magaveida*—is a finely-situated and very interesting little town, nine miles south from Tunbridge Wells. The road through Frant and Mark Cross commands many most lovely woodland views, or it may be reached by the L.B. & S.C. Railway, the station being a short walk from the village. The admirer of Old English houses will be interested in several handsome dwellings in the street of Mayfield. The "Middle House," 1576, which is half-timbered, and the "Lower House," of stone, dating from the

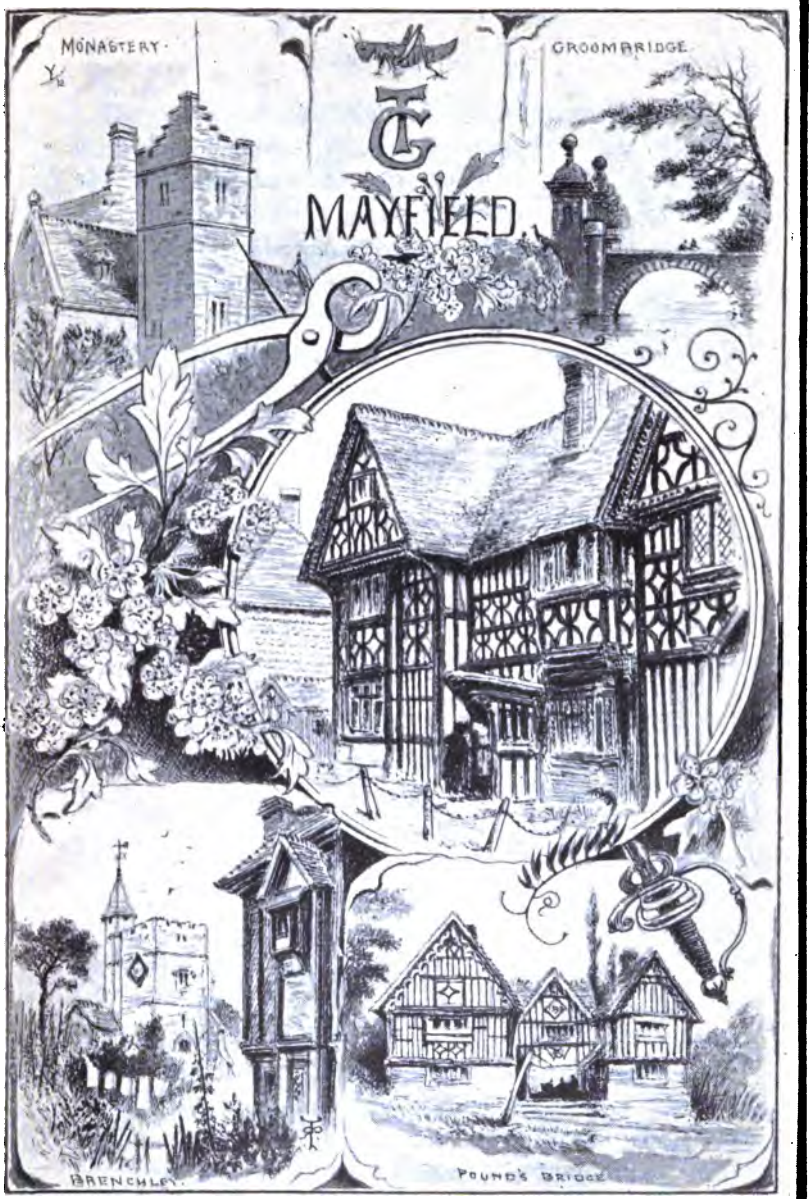
time of James I., are especially worthy of notice. The old town was, with the church, burnt to the ground in 1389.

This picturesque little town has considerable legendary and historical interest. The parish was a "peculiar" of the Archbishop of Canterbury; and the Palace was a favourite residence of many occupants of the Metropolitan See. The original and wooden church was built by St. Dunstan, who lived here. Eadmer relates that, when the building was completed, it was found to be not due east and west, and that Dunstan accordingly administered a gentle push, and brought the church into a proper orthodox position! It is a tradition of Mayfield that the same saint here endured the celebrated assault of the devil, who appeared to him in the guise of a fair lady. He found Dunstan more than a match for him; the saint seized the tempter by the nose with a pair of tongs, and thus effectually vanquished him! It is a moot point whether Dunstan's tongs or Satan's nose were cooled in the Wells of Tunbridge—thenceforth not unnaturally chalybeate. It is scarcely necessary to add that the veritable tongs remain "unto this day," and are to be seen by the curious or sceptical visitor!

The Church is perpendicular, but has an Early English tower surmounted by a broach spire; it is dedicated to St. Dunstan, who will be acknowledged to richly deserve the compliment.

In the years 1332 and 1362, provincial synods were held at Mayfield, for the determination of some of the holy-days of the Church.

In the fourteenth century, Archbishops Meopham, Stratford, and Islip died at their palace at Mayfield. The last-named prelate died from paralysis, which is said to have followed upon a fall from his horse as he was travelling from Otford to Mayfield, the effects of which were increased by his neglecting to change his wet and miry clothes.


MONASTERY
GROOMBRIDGE
MAYFIELD
BRENCHLEY
POUND'S BRIDGE
R. T. PRITCHETT

The Palace of Mayfield has unusual attractions for the archæological visitor. Part of the building dates from the fourteenth, part from the sixteenth century. Formerly it was in a ruinous condition, but the Duchess of Leeds, a member of the Roman Catholic Church, restored the great hall, and fitted it as a chapel for a small resident sisterhood.

This hall, which is 68ft. long, 38ft. broad, and 50ft. high, should be carefully examined. Three lofty stone arches support the noble roof in a manner deserving of attention. The tracery of the windows is of the variety known as "Kentish," and should be compared with the windows in the baronial hall of Penshurst.

There are several other portions of the old Palace worthy of examination, particularly a fine staircase of stone, and the dining hall with an old hooded chimney-piece.

Mayfield Palace has undergone strange mutations of fortune. It was, as has been told, the palatial home of the Archbishops of Canterbury. In the sixteenth century it was the seat of the magnificent London merchant, Sir Thomas Gresham, who was visited here by Queen Elizabeth in one of her royal progresses. In old times it was surrounded by a vast park, and was the scene of splendour. At the beginning of this century, and until the last few years, the buildings were used as a common farm house. Now, the spot has been rescued from neglect; the hall has been restored, and the offices of the Roman Catholic religion are performed in the halls of Islip, and in precincts which legend has consecrated to the memory of Dunstan!

ROTHERFIELD takes its name from the river Rother, which rises in this parish. This river flows in a south-easterly direction, separates into two streams on the borders of Kent, and, re-uniting, forms the Isle of Oxney, after which it expands into an estuary, near Rye, below which town it flows into the British

Channel. It was formerly navigable as high as Etchingham. Rotherfield, which is seven miles south of the Wells, and is reached by the road diverging on the left beyond Eridge Green, is of great antiquity, a park and chase existing here anterior to the Conquest. In Doomsday Book it is described as a royal demesne, and we learn that it was a territorial legacy, bequeathed by King Alfred to his relative, Osforth. Eridge Castle is the manor house of this domain; the ruins of a previous one, called Walshes, lies two miles beyond Rotherfield Church.

The Early English Church has been well restored, and the spire—light, tapering, and lofty—is a prominent landmark. The embattled tower is furnished with five musical bells, of which the tenor weighs nearly 30 cwt. The roof is arched and of chestnut wood. A wooden cover to the font, curiously carved and shaped, bears the date of 1533.

High above the forest scenery may be seen hence the spires of Crowborough, Mayfield, Hartfield, Pembury, Wadhurst, and other elevated village churches.

The villages of Heathfield, Mayfield, and Rotherfield, are now easily reached by the new direct railway to Eastbourne. This has rendered accessible one of the most picturesque districts in the neighbourhood, which will thoroughly repay the pedestrian or excursionist to explore. At Heathfield may be seen a monument which is placed on the spot Jack Cade was killed, which bears the following inscription :—"Near this spot "was slain the notorious rebel, JACK CADE, by Alexander Iden, "Esq., Sheriff of London, A.D. 1450. His body was carried to "London and his head fixed upon London Bridge. This is "the success of all rebels and this fortune chanceth ever to "traitors."—*Hales' Chronicles.*

EXCURSION XI.—TO ASHDOWN FOREST AND CROWBOROUGH.

This is one of the wildest tracts of land in the south-east of England. Except here and there a clump of firs upon a knoll, or a patch of old wood in the hollows, little timber remains. The highest points command fine views over parts of Kent and Sussex. A good pedestrian may cross the forest, starting from Withyham, Hartfield, or Forest Row Stations, and walking by Maresfield to Buxted Station on the Brighton line ; and, if an admirer of woodland and semi-mountainous scenery, he will find himself amply repaid for his labour by the glorious views and the exhilarating air. Refreshments may be obtained at the village inn at Maresfield. Or, he may start from Hartfield, make for Gill's Lap* (a clump of fir trees which may be seen for many miles, either from Tunbridge Wells or from the South Downs), ramble upon the forest, and return through Buckhurst to Withyham.

The forest was one of the appendages of the honour of Pevensey or the Eagle, and has belonged to various noble families since it was granted by William the Conqueror to his half-brother, the Earl of Mortain. It was assigned to John of Gaunt, and from that owner took the name of Lancaster Great Park.

In the seventeenth century the forest was surveyed, when the enclosed ground was estimated to contain 13,991 acres, yielding an annual revenue of £2,256, exclusive of several plots of land outside the pale. Towards the close of the reign of James I., the Earl of Dorset was appointed ranger of the forest, surveyor-general of all the woods, and governor and master of the game, among which were many heads of red and fallow deer. In

* A short tale of some considerable local interest, disclosing a very remarkable case of mistaken identity, which almost caused the death of an innocent person, is published under the title of "Gill's Lap," and may be purchased of the Publisher of this Guide—price 8d.

1661, a long lease of the forest was granted to the Earl of Bristol, at £200 a year, an amount which went to pay part of the jointure of the Queen Dowager. No profit accruing to Lord Bristol from this privilege, he ceased to pay rent, and the grant was annulled. In 1678, a grant in perpetuity of the forest was made to Charles, Earl of Dorset, in the possession of whose descendants it remains.

The names of the bordering parishes, such as Buckhurst and Hartfield, are usually considered as indicative of the purposes subserved by this wild waste; the proprietors had their hunting lodges, and their foresters and retainers, and valued these possessions chiefly for the sake of the pleasure of the chase, for which they afforded abundant scope.

CROWBOROUGH BEACON is the highest point of the forest ridge, at the eastern extremity of Ashdown Forest. It is 803 feet above the sea level. Ditchling Beacon, on the South Downs, is 858 feet. As the names implies, this was a beacon station, and here the flaming warning of war has more than once been kindled in time of danger, and summoned the Sussex yeomen from their homesteads on the hill sides to meet the foe. The view, looking southwards, over the moorland across the valley towards the noble South Down Range, is most grand, and a distant glimpse may, in clear weather, be caught of the sea near Beachy Head. There is a beautiful walk from the Beacon: starting from Crowborough Cross, take the road near a clump of firs, and keep through the fields and woods, passing Renby Grange, and coming into the road near Hamsell Lake, and about five minutes' walk from Eridge Station.

A chapel and school-house were founded and endowed here early in the last century, by Sir Henry Fermor, Bart. Crowborough Common was at one time noted for the private stills which were worked in defiance of the exciseman, by the dwellers

in this formerly desolate and secluded waste. The place has of late years been much recommended by doctors for its bracing air, and many houses have been erected to accommodate those who are sent here. There can be no doubt that, owing to its elevated position, Crowborough as a health resort must grow in popularity.

EXCURSION XII.—TO BUCKHURST, WITHYHAM, AND HARTFIELD.

The original Norman owners of the estate of Buckhurst were the De Denes; an heiress of that name, Ela de Dene, in the reign of Richard I., carried Buckhurst in marriage to Sir Jordan de Sackville; and the Sackvilles have held the property ever since. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, one of this family, Baron Buckhurst (afterwards the first Earl of Dorset), who was Lord Treasurer of England, reared a mansion on this estate, which Horace Walpole, who saw the old plans, pronounced "an immense pile." But in 1605, the treasurer, having represented to King James the inconvenience of residence at Buckhurst, arising from the distance and the foul roads, obtained a grant of Knole. Buckhurst House thus fell into disuse, and the materials were removed to East Grinstead, to aid in the erection of Sackville College in that town, which was completed in the year 1616.

The modern house of Buckhurst Park, formerly known as Stoneland, and a portion of which now remains, was rebuilt about the year 1830. The park contains many very noble beeches, and has several small lakes: the walk or drive from the Maresfield Road to Withyham is very charming. The late Earl de la Warr and Baron Buckhurst was the Rev. Reginald Windsor Sackville, born February 21st, 1817, who

was formerly rector of Withyham; he took the title in 1873, and died in 1896. His second son succeeded him; the eldest was drowned while yachting in 1890. Not far from the modern residence is Old Buckhurst, the seat of the Sackvilles probably from the thirteenth century. There are evidences of it formerly being a mansion of considerable size, and the square tower and some ruins which remain shew that it formerly was an imposing structure.



"DAY OF MY LIFE."

WITHYHAM and HARTFIELD are two villages near together, respectively seven and eight miles from the Wells, and may be visited when an excursion is made to Buckhurst Park.

The greater part of the old church at Withyham was destroyed by lightning in 1663; the present edifice dates from a few years after that event. The north or Dorset chancel contains the tombs, for the sake of which, chiefly, this church is visited. Here is also an altar for the departed members of the Sackville family. Several monuments and epitaphs perished with the destruction of the former building. Of the monuments now to be seen in this chancel, one is an altar-tomb of white marble, with figures of a boy, and of his father and mother, Richard and Frances, Earl and Countess of Dorset, lamenting over his decease; another, by Nollekens, commemorates a Duke of Dorset, who died in 1799; whilst the third, by Flaxman, is to the memory of the Duke, who was killed in 1815 by a fall from his horse. The sixth Earl of Dorset, celebrated in Pope's epitaph as "the grace of courts, the

muses' pride," is buried here, though his epitaph will be looked for in vain.

There are some curious fresco paintings in this church, which are worthy of observation.

In the churchyard there are several old tomb-stones, but time has defaced them and they are scarcely legible.



By permission of] *Withyham Church.* [G. Glanville.

Good accommodation will be found at the Dorset Arms, near the entrance of the park, a neatly-kept village inn.

The church of Hartfield has Early English and decorated portions, and is noted as "being one of the two churches in England of the fifteenth century which have broach spires."

In the parish are the ruins of Bolebrook House, which was a brick edifice of the fifteenth century, and was formerly one of the seats of the Sackvilles.



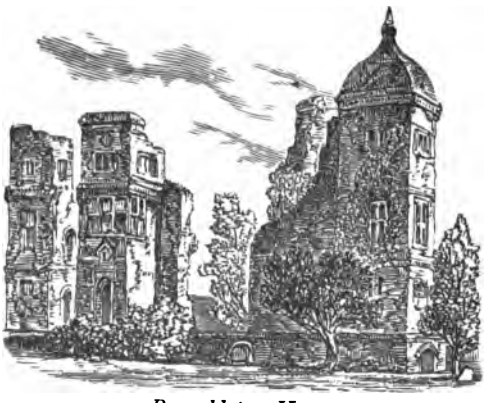
By permission of] *Hartfield Church.* [Carl Norman & Co.

EXCURSION XIII.—TO BRAMBLETYE HOUSE AND EAST GRINSTEAD.

Brambletye is within a short walk of Forest Row Station. "Brambertie" is the name of a manor as old as Doomsday Book, formerly an appendage to "the honour of the eagle." The place has passed through the hands of many families, and has seen strange vicissitudes of fortune befall its owners.

The house, now in ruins, was built by Sir Henry Compton, in the reign of James I. The arms and initials of the Comptons are still to be seen carved over the principal entrance. The house must have been spacious and handsome, though scarcely of great architectural interest. It has long been a mystery

that so fine a residence should have been allowed to fall into disuse and decay; and imagination has busily supplied, or, at least, embellished facts with a view to account for this phenomenon. It is generally believed that a certain owner of Brambletye was suspected of treasonable designs. Officers of justice were despatched to search the house; which, on inspection, was found to contain a large depôt of arms and military stores. The owner was engaged hunting on the neighbouring forest, and on receiving intimation of the discovery, he deemed it most prudent to abscond. Having made his escape, the mansion was henceforth deserted, and suffered to go to decay. The story has been considered to apply to Sir James Richards, who appears to have possessed the place towards the close of the seventeenth century, and who is reported to have quitted the country and to have settled and died in Spain, where his posterity afterwards resided, and held important posts in the Spanish army.



Brambletye House.

East Grinstead is a market town, two miles north-west of Brambletye House, and fifteen from Tunbridge Wells, seated on a hill near the borders of Surrey. It formerly sent two representatives to Parliament. In 1701, Matthew Prior, the versatile poet and honest diplomatist, was elected M.P. for this borough.

The Lent Assizes were at one time held here, the prisoners being brought from Horsham gaol for trial. The church, on the east side of the principal street, has been thrice rebuilt in less than two centuries. The tower and bells were destroyed by lightning on the 6th September, 1683. In the succeeding year a new tower was erected, but that was also fated to destruction; for on the 12th of November, 1785, it fell, injuring the body of the church, and burying the adjoining schoolroom in the *débris*. The existing tower was then built, and is a very prominent landmark seen from all the country round.

There is an interesting brass in this church of the date of 1505; and the tomb of the first Lord Colchester, who was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1802 to 1817, when he was created Baron Colchester, and lived at Kidbrooke, near Forest Row, until his death in 1829.

In the reign of Queen Mary, three persons were burnt in the main street of this town for alleged heresy.

Sackville College was built and endowed under the will of Robert Sackville, second Earl of Dorset, who died in 1608. The building is of grey sandstone, and forms a picturesque quadrangle. Here a few poor and aged men and women are provided with comfortable lodgings, a small pension, and the opportunity of social worship, under the superintendence of a warden who resides in rooms at the north-east angle. There is also an Anglican Sisterhood in East Grinstead, famed for works of mercy and education.

PLEASANT RIDES FOR CYCLISTS,

With approximate distances between each place.

	MILES.
Pembury Lower Green	3
Badsell Mill	3½
Mascall Pound	1
Matfield Green	2½
Pembury	3
Tunbridge Wells	3
	16
Pembury	3
Matfield	3
Near Brenchley	1
Cross road to Paddock Wood	0½
Ramshill	2
Paddock Wood	3
Matfield Green	2½
Pembury	2½
Tunbridge Wells	3
	20½
Pembury	3
First turn past Kippings Cross	2
Horsmonden	4
Broadford Mill	2
Spelmonden	2
Pembury	4
Tunbridge Wells	3
	20
Pembury	3
Goudhurst	8
Marden	5
Collier Street	3
Horsmonden	3
Brenchley	2½
Matfield	1½
Pembury	3
Tunbridge Wells	3
	32
Pembury	3
Lamberhurst	5
Flimwell	4
Hawkhurst	3
Hartley	3
Iden Green	2
Goudhurst	1
Pembury	8
Tunbridge Wells	3
	32
Crowborough	7
Fiveash Down	5
Buxted	1½
Hadlow Down	2½
Five Ashes	2
Butcher's Cross	1
Mayfield	2½
Frant	6
Tunbridge Wells	2
	29½

	MILES.
Pembury	3
Goudhurst	8
Sissinghurst	3½
Staplehurst	4
Marden	3½
Claygate	2
Horsmonden	3
Brenchley	2
Pembury	4
Tunbridge Wells	3
	36
Sissinghurst	14½
Biddenden	4
Tenterden	5
Rolvenden	2½
Benenden	2
Cranbrook	3½
Hartley	1½
Iden Green	2½
Goudhurst	1½
Tunbridge Wells	11
	48
Groombridge	4
Hartfield	4
Forest Row	4
Wych Cross	2
Chelwood Gate	1
Dane Hill	1½
Sheffield Arms	2
Fletching	2½
Pilt Down	1½
Uckfield	2
Crowborough	7
Tunbridge Wells	7
	38½
Wych Cross	14
Nutley	4
Maresfield	4
Ringles Cross	1
Crowborough	6
Tunbridge Wells	7
	36
Mayfield	9
Butcher's Cross	2½
Cross in Hand	3½
Heathfield	3½
Burwash Common	4½
Burwash	4½
Etchingham	3
Hurst Green	2
Flimwell	4
Lamberhurst Down	5
Bayham	2
Frant Station	2½
Tunbridge Wells	1½
	47½

	MILES.
Wych Cross	14
Plaw Hatch	2
West Hoathley	2½
Three Bridges	7
Crawley	1½
Copthorne Common	5
East Grinstead	5
Holtye Common	4½
Ashurst	3½
Tunbridge Wells	3½
	48½
Rusthall	1
Fordcombe Green	3
Smart's Hill	2
Chiddingstone Hoath	2
Edenbridge	4
Four Elms	3
Bough Beech	2
Penshurst Station	2
Leigh	2
Watt's Cross	2½
Tonbridge	1½
Tunbridge Wells	5
	30
Groombridge	4
Hartfield	4
Highfield Park	3½
Ashurst	2½
Rusthall	4
Tunbridge Wells	1
	19
Tonbridge	5
Shipbourne	4
Ightham	3½
Borough Green	1
Wrotham Heath	1½
Leybourne	4
Maidstone	5
Tonbridge	14
Tunbridge Wells	5
	43
Maidstone	19
Borough Green	9
East Peckham	4
Paddock Wood	2½
Matfield	2
Pembury	2½
Tunbridge Wells	3
	42
Edenbridge	12
Crockham Hill	3
Westerham	3
Sevenoaks	6
Tonbridge	6
Southborough	2
Tunbridge Wells	3
	35



A SLIGHT SKETCH

OF THE

BOTANY

OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY

Mrs John Peerless (Anne Pratt).

FROM a single glance at this neighbourhood it will be seen how richly wooded it is. In the Grove, on the Common, in the parks and woods, noble elms, oaks, beeches, limes, and birches contrast with dark firs, and darker yew trees; and the grey leaves of the willows by the water-courses mingle among the sombre foliage of the alder, or the bright green of the ash boughs, or the hoary leaves of the white poplar. Here and there, too, we may listen to the trembling aspen, whose rustling branches are musical as if a shower of rain were falling gently. The noble elms were probably planted (and it is a pity more of them are not now planted to keep up the stock), but the other trees are so plentiful in the woods that they were, doubtless, the original proprietors of the soil.

How shall we tell of the flowers which in spring grow beneath their friendly shade? of the clumps of delicately-tinted and deli-

cately-scented primroses, *Primula vulgaris*, which open so early in the year, and are followed by the sapphire-hued hyacinth, *Agraphis nutans*, and the large white or pinkish blossom of the wood anemone, *Anemone nemorosa*, varied by the numerous yellow stamens in the centre of its cup. But we cannot promise the lover of flowers that he shall find the sweet violet, *Viola odorata*, for common as it usually is amid the shady lanes of England, it is rare here, though growing in a few spots among rocky places. It is the sweetest of all the six British species of violet; but a violet more prized by the botanist, because of its rarity, flowers here among the wet mosses, and possesses an odour almost as sweet. This is the marsh violet, *Viola palustris*, a much paler flower. Here, too, the dingy purple blooms of the hairy violet, *Viola hirta*, have been seen sheltering beneath the High Rocks. The common dog violet, *Viola canina*, is abundant among the short grass, and a pretty, graceful flower it is, loving sunshine rather than shade, and ornamenting the Common as well as the hedge-banks.

The wild periwinkle, *Vinca major*, trails its long stems, beset with glossy leaves and large blue flowers, in the woods here; and that flower, so beautiful and so common in our country lanes and wooded places, the stitchwort, or satin flower, *Stellaria holostea*, is plentiful. The blossoms are delicately white, with orange-coloured stamens; the leaves long and slender as is the corn blade. Two plants known by the name of cuckoo flower, because, like the cuckoo, they come in spring-time, contribute here to the beauty of the wood or hedge, especially where the soil is moist. The pale lilac-flowered cuckoo flower, *Cardamine pratensis*, is the "lady's smock" of Shakespeare, and in his days the pungent leaves were eaten; and the red flowers of the ragged robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, rise on its brown, clammy stems, and are conspicuous on the damp soil. The large, yellow drooping flowers of the wild daffodil, *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*, hang above the wild bugle, *Ajuga reptans*, which sends out its leafy, creeping scions and blossoms in such abundance as to give a blue carpet to the spring woods.

The spurge laurel, *Daphne laureola*, a somewhat rare little shrub, with dark green leaves and pale green flowers, is found near the



HOP GARDEN IN KENT—PICKING.

From a Photo by Carl Norman & Co.: by kind permission.



SCENE IN A HOP GARDEN.

"A land of Hops and Poppy-mingled Corn."

High Rocks in May; and the lords and ladies, or cuckoo pint, *Arum maculatum*, is too frequent not to attract the eye of every rambler. Its large, glossy leaves, often spotted and streaked with black, and sending up from their centre the slender column of purple or pale green, lie by hundreds on the side of the hedge; and when the trees are brown and all flowers have departed, the thick clusters of orange berries are conspicuous among the withered foliage of autumn. They are highly poisonous. In some of the woods, too, around Tunbridge Wells, the well-known lily of the valley, *Convallaria majalis*, sends out the sweet narcotic odour from its white bells, and covers the surface of the earth with its twin broad bright green leaves.

Several species of St. John's wort are abundant in this neighbourhood. They are all of golden yellow colour, both blossoms and leaves more or less tinted with red, and in some species having small black spots on the flower, or clear dots on the foliage. They all contain a resin, and all species were regarded as possessing healing properties, and were also thought to avert the influence of evil spirits. The large-flowered species termed toutsaine, *Hypericum androsæmum*, is very handsome, and one not very generally distributed, but it is frequent here, and still more so in other parts of the Weald, where it is called amber. The perforated St. John's wort, *Hypericum perforatum*, and the small, upright St. John's wort, *Hypericum pulchrum*, a very slender species, are common in our woods; while on the bogs, the trailing species, *Hypericum humifusum*, sends its slender stems, gay with small yellow blooms, over the grass.

The sweet woodruff, *Asperula odorata*, with its whorl of leaves, sweetly scented when dry, and its tiny white flower, is common in this neighbourhood; and everywhere among trees and bushes we find the wood sage, *Teucrium scorodonia*, with its sage-like leaves and small, greenish flowers, having red-stalked stamens; the plant has been used instead of hops.

During six or seven months of the year, the thin triple leaves of the wood sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*, form bright green masses on the ground or tree stumps, or rocky surface, beneath which lie their

roots like beaded coral. The pencilled white flowers expand in May, and both flower and leaf are so sensitive that even a heavy cloud will cause them to fold up.

Hundreds of lovely woodland flowers must pass unmentioned, but the golden rod, *Solidago virgaurea*, must have a word of notice, because so common in these woods in autumn. It is about a foot high, the upper part of its stem adorned with numerous yellow flowers, more or less scattered. It is even now considered a good remedy for wounds, and was formerly much prized for its healing virtues.

There are few towns which are surrounded by more lovely lanes than the town of Tunbridge Wells; and when in the spring the banks are gay with the brilliant blue flowers of the germander speedwell, *Veronica Chamaedrys*, and the little brooklets are bordered with the thick leaves and rich blue flowers of the brooklime, *Veronica Beccabunga*, and the thrush and blackbird are singing among the trees, then is the time of their special loveliness. The maple in the hedge wears its small green flowers, and the hazel is drooping its catkins, and then we may look up at the snowy clusters of the bird cherry, *Prunus avium*, or at the white blooms of the wild plum tree, *Prunus communis*, or glance from them to the rosy buds or rose-like flowers of the crab apple, *Pyrus malus*, gleaming all so brightly against the blue sky. The blackthorn or sloe, *Prunus spinosa*, had, a few weeks since, its black branches thickened with small white flowers, and is only now putting on its leaves. A little later, and the hawthorn or may, *Cratægus Oxyacantha*, fills all the hedge with its white clusters, and all the air with its sweetness. And then comes the honeysuckle, *Lonicera periclymenum*, and the wild roses of summer. Not to speak of those rare species which charm the botanist, and which he may find here, as *Rosa inodora* and *Rosa systyla*, we have the two common kinds, which please everybody. The dog rose, *Rosa canina*, blushes in every lane, and more rarely the trailing dog rose, *Rosa arvensis*, opens its pure white flowers, and winds its stem and short thick beds to the summit of the high hedge; while here and there the smaller rose of the sweet briar, *Rosa rubiginosa*, betrays itself by its fragrance.

Many well-known flowers trail about the banks here, as in all country places, as the pink convolvulus, *Convolvolus arvensis*, which catches the boughs of the bush, or climbs round the corn stalk; and the large hooded bindweed, *Calystegia sepium*, which luxuriates in moist soils; while vetches, too numerous to name, are to be found here, one of the commonest being also one of the loveliest. This is the tufted vetch, *Vicia cracca*, and it hangs its long, crowded tassel of deep purplish pink flowers on many a low shrub at midsummer, and is sometimes half hidden by the large, glossy, heart-shaped leaves of the black bryony, *Tamus communis*. The musk mallow, *Malva moschata*, with its sweet odour, is common here, and white and red campions are in abundance. A large tribe of reddish or purple-tipped flowers, as the calaminths, *Calamintha*, and the white horehound, *Marrubium vulgare*, which cannot be described without the use of botanical terms, grow beside the magnificent foxglove, *Digitalis purpureus*, and the stately mullein, *Verbascum Thapsus*. The large, thick, downy, felt-like leaves of this plant have won for it the name of "flannel flower." As for the graceful ferns hanging among the harebells from the crevices of rocks, or grouping under the hedges, they might arrest the eye of every visitor to Tunbridge Wells. The hart's tongue, *Scolopendrium vulgare*, though rare near the town, is abundant in the surrounding districts, the deeply-cut fronds of the northern hard fern, *Blechnum boreale*, and the prickly-toothed fern, *Lastrea dilatata*, are also abundant. The common brake, *Pteris aquilina*, can be seen at places to grow as high as five, and even six feet, and has handsome, spreading fronds of about two feet long and a foot wide; it is then one of the finest of our English specimens. The male fern, *Lastrea filix mas*, may be found in many places, also some good specimens of the lady fern, *Athyrium filix fœmina*. The polypody, *Polydium vulgare*, is common. There may be found also the royal buckler fern, *Lastrea Regina*, and some others of the *Lastrea* tribe. The *Asplenium Tricomines*, *Polystichum*, and also the little Tonbridge fern, *Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense*, may occasionally be met with.

Passing through the lanes to the bogs, with their green mosses, and their clumps of large, rosy-tipped bog moss, we see afar off, in

early spring, the large, yellow cups of the marsh-marigold, *Caltha palustris;* and wading in among grass and sedges, we find the pretty pale, or sometimes deep lilac marsh orchis, *Orchis latifolia;*



but Tunbridge Wells is not remarkable for orchises. The early purple species, *Orchis mascula*, however, and the green-winged orchis, *Orchis morio*, and the low, dwarf orchis, *Orchis ustulata*, occur here, as does the lovely butterfly orchis, *Habenaria albida;* while the only fragrant wild orchis, the *Gymnadenia conopsea*, springs up occasionally. But the orchis tribe prefers the chalky soil, and chalk is miles away.

At midsummer may be found in the neighbourhood some patches of the rare sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, with small white flowers, growing from a circle of crimson green leaves, beset with crimson hairs; each hair bearing a glossy gland, looking like a dewdrop, and of a clammy nature. Woe to the small insect which goes to taste the sweetness. It cannot escape, and lies on the leaf till it dies.

That lovely little flower, the bog asphodel, *Narthecium ossifragum*, its yellow flowers dotted with their red stamens, and its leaves stiff and sedge-like, may be found; and masses of the forget-me-not, *Myosotis palustris*, with flowers blue as the summer sky, are conspicuous among the large and slender whorls of the horsetails which throng in the wet places. A pretty little plant, with clusters of very small yellow flowers and yellowish-green roundish leaves, not common everywhere, was abundant here. It

is the golden saxifrage, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. Here and there, in deeper waters, we find the water violet, *Hottonia palustris*, which is not at all like a violet, but is a plant about a foot high, with lilac flowers growing in circles round the stem. The leaves are very peculiar, consisting of masses of green segments, little thicker than a coarse thread, sometimes tangling into balls, or forming green patches half a yard long. In the Eridge woods, the floating frogbit, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranæ*, catches the eye; its pretty, crumpled, thin white flowers shining like satin, and its small, oval leaves, in shape like those of the water-lily. The thick, succulent, yellow water lily, *Nuphar lutea*, and the water plaintain, with its little pink blooms and broad leaves, may be seen in the deep waters of Tunbridge Wells.

Corn fields and hop gardens have a beauty of their own, and the flowers growing there are pretty much the same as in all similar spots of our country. Good corn is grown in this neighbourhood, and the scarlet poppy, *Papaver Rhoeas*, though not so abundant as in the chalky fields of Kent, yet intrudes itself here as there; and clumps of mallow, *Malva sylvestris*, with large, showy flowers, and different species of spurge with yellowish-green leaves, and stalks full of milk; and the small red flower of the fumitory, *Fumaria*, and the large, handsome blooms of the golden sowthistle, *Sonchus arvensis*, unite with the thistles to trouble the cultivator. The yellow toad-flax, *Linaria vulgaris*, often so conspicuous in fields and hedges, seems less frequent here than in most places. But the large leaves of the coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*, lie in the furrows, and their yellow, leafless blooms dot the field in February.

The heath and furze are, however, after all, the especial plants of this district, giving their summer and autumn glory to grassy places, to rocks, and hedges. The prevailing species of heath is the fine-leaved heath, *Erica cinerea*, with reddish-purple bells; and mingling with it we find the little branched shrub, termed ling, *Calluna vulgaris*, with crowded clusters of paler lilac flowers. The drooping rose-coloured heath, *Erica Tetralix*, with a small, thick cluster of wax-like flowers drooping from the top of its stem, is found also in patches on the bogs here.

The golden furze, *Ulex Europæus*, with its delicious scent, and its dark green prickly boughs, has even a few flowers to cheer us in the winter. In some seasons our furze is sadly entangled and injured by the dodder, which is a parasitic plant. This is the *Cuscuta epithymum*, and its slender, crimson threads and small clusters of lovely little blooms strangle many a fine furze shrub. The bright and handsome flowers of the broom, *Sarothamnus scoparius*, add also to the beauty of many spots in the neighbourhood.

Among the short grass of the Common, where the daisy clusters, and small dwarfed cowslips sometimes grow in spring, we find, in the later year, clumps of blue milkwort, *Polygala vulgaris*, several of the smaller kinds of cranesbill, *Geranium*, and the less frequent storksbill, *Erodium;* while thousands of the yellow flowers of the tormentil, *Tormentilla officinalis*, dot the grass, and the golden blooms of the bedstraw, *Galium verum*, are plentiful. The red rattle, *Pedicularis palustris*, grows on the moist part among the rushes, and the grey balls of the sheep's scabious, *Jasione montana*, nod to the winds among the rocks, and the devil's bit, *Scabiosa succisa*, contrasts with its darker purple flower. And when, in the autumn, the foot of the rambler presses the grass, there comes up the sweet odour from the chamomile, *Matricaria chamomilla*, which has a flower a little larger than the daisy, and is only a few inches high. It is the origin of the chamomile of commerce.

For the botanist, the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells is a fertile field, and it may perhaps surprise some of our young readers to know how easily nearly all of the beautiful wild flowers that abound can be dried; preserving the colour both of leaf and petal. By collecting specimens, many a ramble around this charming place, and along its shady lanes and woodlands, may be made more pleasant and instructive, and an early desire for botanical knowledge fostered and encouraged.*

* Books recommended to young Botanists are—Anne Pratt's "Wild Flowers," 2 vols., and "Haunts of the Wild Flowers; John's "Flowers of the Field:" Lancaster's "Wild Flowers worth notice," etc, all of which may be had of the Publisher of this Guide.

Visitors returning from Groombridge viâ Eridge to Tunbridge Wells, are permitted to drive through the Goldsmiths' Nurseries, kept by Mr. Hollamby. These grounds, especially when the roses are in bloom, are worth inspection.



THE GEOLOGY

OF THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD,

BY

W. TOPLEY, ESQ., F.G.S.

Geological Survey of England and Wales

EOLOGY being, in these days, a somewhat popular study, it has been thought desirable to offer to the student a short chapter on this subject. The chief interest in the Geology of Tunbridge Wells lies in the exceptional character of the rocks which underlie the district. By far the greater part of the strata composing the earth's crust has been formed in the sea, as we learn by the salt-water fossils they contain ; but the rocks at and around Tunbridge Wells were evidently formed in fresh water, brought down by a river and deposited at its mouth, either as a delta, or, as is more likely, in an immense lake. The shells known as *Unio*, *Cyclas*, and *Paludina*, which are the commonest fossils of the district, very much resemble those now found living in ponds, lakes, and rivers ; whilst the large saurians (*Iguanodon* and others) whose bones occur in many places, were land animals, carried down by floods.

These fresh-water strata occupy the whole of the southern half of Kent, a part of Surrey, and a large area of Sussex. As a rule, the lowest strata of the series occur in the higher districts immediately south-west of Tunbridge Wells; and again in the high land of Sussex, about Brightling and Heathfield. From these districts the lower beds incline or "dip," both to the north, in going north, and to the south, in going south; so that in passing in either direction we necessarily traverse higher beds. This will be more easily understood by referring to the illustrated Section at the end of this article, which represents the earth *cut through* to the sea-level in the line from Tunbridge Wells to London. In that direction the fresh-water beds include all those up to the base of the steep hill at *e*. This hill is part of what geologists call the lower Greensand escarpment, which extends in an almost continuous line from the coast near Hythe, westwards through Kent and Surrey, and then again eastwards, through Sussex. It is broken through at intervals by deep-sided valleys, through which the rivers flow.

The term "escarpment" indicates a continuous line of hills, with a steep slope. Three such are seen in the section, and it will be there observed that the beds "dip" *into* the steep face or escarpment, whilst on the other side, where the surface is more or less parallel to the dip, the slope is very small. This is an almost universal rule with escarpments.

The Lower Greensand escarpment, or that range of hills on which Sevenoaks is built, is composed of salt-water strata, and the foot of the steep slope is the boundary of the fresh-water strata. This slope or escarpment is also the boundary of the ancient *Sylva Anderida*, *Andrea's-Wald* or *Weald;* hence the fresh-water beds which occur within that district are termed "Wealden."

The Weald was anciently an almost unbroken forest, and down to quite recent times it was but sparingly inhabited. In the local names we can trace the early condition of the country: there are great numbers of places ending in *hurst*, *den*, *fold*, *field*, etc. "Hurst," in Old English or Anglo-Saxon, is a wood; "den," an outlying pasture within the wood, separated from the reclaimed and inhabited land; "fold" and "field" perhaps indicate parts that

were cleared and cultivated in early times. If we glance over a map in which the hills are well shaded, and which distinctly traces the Lower Greensand escarpment—or, still better, if we consult a larger scale geological map, we shall find that places having one or other of these terminations are exceedingly numerous below the escarpment or within the Weald; whilst in all the surrounding country they are remarkable for their rarity. The Weald at present exhibits small traces of its ancient wildness, and what is left of it adds greatly to the beauty of the country. The richly-wooded appearance which meets the eye in every direction, is due not so much to extensive forests and plantations, as to small "shaws," "gills," and woods, and to the immense quantity of timber along the hedgerows and roads.

The Wealden Beds are classed into two great divisions; an upper one known as *Weald Clay*, and a lower one known as *Hastings Beds*. To the latter division nearly all the rocks around Tunbridge Wells belong; all, in fact, excepting a few patches of clay which lie upon the "rocks" over Rusthall Common and elsewhere.

The Hastings Beds are generally called "Hastings *Sands*," because of the great quantity of sand and sandstone they contain. But there is also a good deal of clay, so that the former name is more appropriate. The rocks which form so striking a feature in the landscape of this district are the highest strata of the Hastings Beds. The appearance of these rocks would give one the impression that they are exceedingly hard and massive. But this is by no means always the case. Generally it is only quite the outside crust which is hard, and if this be cut away with a knife, the inside can often be easily scraped with a finger-nail. The rocks appear to owe their preservation to their great uniformity of grain, and to their presenting to the weather few, but regular planes of division.

The Hastings Beds are divided into several divisions. The highest is called "Tunbridge Wells Sand," because the country for some miles around the Wells is mainly composed of it. It is well seen in the railway cuttings. In the deeper valleys of the district, clay is found; this is called "Wadhurst Clay," because it covers a great space about the village of that name. This clay lies under the

Tunbridge Wells Sand; so that if a deep well were sunk, say on Rusthall Common, the Beds would be pierced in the following order. First, beneath the soil, there would be the Weald Clay of no great thickness, then the Tunbridge Wells Sand for perhaps 160 or 180 feet, below this there would be 130 or 150 feet of Wadhurst Clay. If the well were continued still further, we should come to another great series of sand and sandstone, which is called the "Ashdown Sand," because it rises from beneath the higher beds, and occupies almost the whole of Ashdown Forest. How thick these sands might lie beneath Tunbridge Wells it is impossible to say, probably 200 or 250 feet at least. Still lower than these we might find a number of beds of limestone with shales and sandstone, such as occur and were formerly worked in the deep valleys between Burwash and Heathfield, and which are known as the "Ashburnham Beds." *

Although these lower beds occur at a great depth beneath Rusthall Common, a glance at the Section will show how beds that are deeply covered up at one place can rise into hills a few miles off. But besides this, the whole of the Hastings Beds country is much intersected by "faults," or dislocations of the strata, which often bring up the beds quite suddenly, out of their normal order.

The Wadhurst Clay contains some thin beds of limestone, which are often worked for road-stone, as at Beech Green, one mile from Ashurst. In many of the clayey districts similar stone is used for making paths or causeways alongside the road. The Wealden roads were, until quite recent times, exceedingly bad, and only along these causeways could goods be conveyed in winter. Pack horses were used for this purpose.

* Those who wish to obtain a more detailed account than is here given of the range and composition of these various beds, had better consult a paper published by Mr. F. Drew, of the Geological Survey, in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, vol. xvii., page 271 (1861). Tunbridge Wells, and the country for some distance around it, was surveyed by Mr. Drew, and the names of the strata given above, excepting the Ashburnham Beds, are those proposed by him and adopted on the Geological Survey Maps. Professor Morris and Mr. Prestwich have described the railway cuttings between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells in the second volume of the Journal just referred to. Dr. Mansell published a general description of the district in Britton's *Descriptive Sketches of Tunbridge Wells* (1832).

The Wadhurst Clay was the main source of the iron-stone which, years ago, formed so great a source of wealth to Wealden land owners. The ore occurs chiefly towards the bottom of the clay; and all through the woods along this line small pits may be found, some six feet or so in diameter, lying thickly together, and now generally full of water; out of these iron-stone has been dug. They are called "mine-pits" by the country folks, and the ore (a clay iron-stone) is called "mine," "iron-mine," or "mine-stone." Associated with it there is generally a bed of stone, containing shells, and which is largely composed of carbonate of lime. It also contains a great deal of iron, and was very likely often used as ore, but also served as a *flux* for the furnaces.

There were many furnaces and forges in this neighbourhood, the most important of which was at Lamberhurst; but here as elsewhere, the remains which now exist are small. The iron railings around St. Paul's were made here. This furnace was the latest going in this neighbourhood; it ceased working about the end of the last century. There was a furnace at Ashburnham, in Sussex, as late as 1828.

Charcoal was the fuel used in all these furnaces; and the decline of the iron trade was owing not to want of ore, but to an increasing scarcity of fuel. It is quite possible to pass through the Weald without being at all struck with any traces of this now neglected branch of industry, but an observant traveller will have no difficulty in discovering them. In local names we can find them. There are many names of places distinguished by the words Forge, Furnace, Hammer, Gun, Tongs, Mine, Mine-pit, etc., which all mark the site of iron works, or of some process connected with iron manufacture.

At a farm about six miles west of Mayfield, and due north of Five Chimneys, there is still standing a large hammer post; and a mile and a-half east of this is Hugget's Furnace, at which tradition states the first cannon *cast* in England was made.

Visitors to Tunbridge Wells need hardly be reminded that the water of this district is often impregnated with iron. This shows that iron is abundant in the rock; but such ferruginous springs or streams have no necessary connection with iron-stone or the old

iron workings. The chalybeate qualities are more often acquired by filtering through sand or sandstone, in which comparatively small quantities of iron are dispersed.

We have but little space left to speak of a subject which has always had a great interest for geologists who have studied this district. Upon the "Denudation of the Weald" very much has been written and many theories advanced. We cannot now discuss them all, but will content ourselves by explaining the matter as it presents itself to the present writer.

By "denudation" is meant, in general terms, the origin of the present shape of the ground. Hills are hills because the surrounding land has been carried away, and valleys are valleys because the rock which once filled them has been dug out; but how? Some have said by gigantic earthquake movements, followed up by "diluvial" currents of water. Others now say the sea has done it all; has scooped out the deep and winding valleys of the country around Tunbridge Wells, and also worn into cliffs the long lines of escarpment before mentioned. The latter half of this statement seems likely enough at first sight, and for many years most geologists were well content with such an explanation. But when we come to consider the matter more closely, we find that the resemblance of the lines of escarpments to the sea cliffs is purely imaginary.

But the list of "denuding" agents is not exhausted by those just mentioned. There is another, universally diffused and ever acting, to which geologists are now turning their attention—that is *atmospheric action*, in all its various forms of weather, rain and rivers.

If we examine any brook after a heavy shower of rain, we shall find the water muddy; and if we watch the brook side carefully, we shall not be long in discovering the source of this muddiness. Numberless little streamlets bring down the rain from the fields above; in this rain-water there are particles of mud and sand, which are carried into the brook, and thence down the valley to the river, and still onwards into the sea.

But some rocks yield more readily to weather than others. Clay is easily worn away, sand less easily; and so we find that the sides of valleys are steep when composed of sand, and flatter, or with a

more gentle slope, when composed of clay. A large area of clay nearly always presents a tame and monotonous surface; as the Weald Clay which lies between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, and along which the South Eastern Railway runs from near Red Hill to Ashford. The streams *cut* their way downwards through the rocks; but the extent of this excavation is limited by the level of the larger streams below, that by the rivers, and rivers by the sea level; so that there is an accurate adjustment of slopes from the sea upwards through the main trunk rivers; and thence still higher up the brooks and streams, to the little rivulets which rise in springs amongst the hills.

These streams, then, denude the country by excavating their own beds; but they fulfil a far more important function in carrying away the *detritus* which is brought down by rain. This *detritus*, together with the fragments of rock detached and carried along by the streams themselves, goes to form gravel, sand and loam; which is either spread out by the streams in floods, or carried away to sea. Deposits of gravel and loam are now being continually formed and destroyed by every brook and river; and along all the brooks and rivers of this district there may be found such deposits, *on the sides of the valleys* made by these streams when they flowed at higher levels than now, and before they had excavated their valleys to the present depths. Such deposits, or "terraces" of gravel are at once the result and proof of denudation by "rain and rivers." There are several such terraces cut through in the railway cuttings between Tonbridge and East Grinstead. In the Medway valley, below Tonbridge, there are many more, extending to great heights above the river; and near Maidstone they occur at a height of 300 feet above the river, and are composed of gravel similar to that now carried along in the river beds. This gravel once formed the bed of the river Medway; and we cannot resist the conclusion that the valley of the Medway, to a depth of at least 300 feet, has been actually excavated by that river; whilst the ground around has been gradually worn away by frost, snow and rain.

Suppose that somewhere in the course of the Medway below Tonbridge, a large lake existed; what would be the result? Just

what we see in thousands of instances where lakes do occur in the course of rivers; that the sediment brought down by the river is arrested, and is deposited in layers at the lake bottom. This sediment is a measure of the amount of denudation which the country drained by that river has undergone since the lake was formed.

How or when lakes were formed is not our present subject. But what are the rocks we have been speaking about in the foregoing pages? Simply the sediment brought down by an old river, and deposited in an immense lake. And did we know the original amount of those deposits, we should have a partial measure of the amount of denudation undergone by the ancient land drained by that old river. All that we now contend for then is this: that our present Wealden rivers are now engaged, and have for long ages been engaged, in carrying away material which an ancient river has brought.

The source and course of this ancient river we cannot now stay to discuss; but we know that it must have drained a large, almost continental area of land far to the west, where now flow the English Channel and the wide Atlantic.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND NOTES OF LOCAL WEALDEN FOSSILS.

Kindly contributed by G. ABBOTT, Esq., M.R.C.S.

Traces of both bivalve and spiral shells (Cyrenæ and Paludinæ) are found *(a)* in the sandstone as *Casts* (Fig. 2) the lime having been dissolved and removed by water containing carbonic acid gas; or *(b)* in mass as *limestone* (Fig. 1). Both kinds of shells are met with in either condition.

Fig 1.—Specimen of limestone formed of spiral shells (Paludinæ) from Ashurst.

Fig. 2.—Sandstone with *impressions* of bivalve shells (Cyrenæ) from Langton.

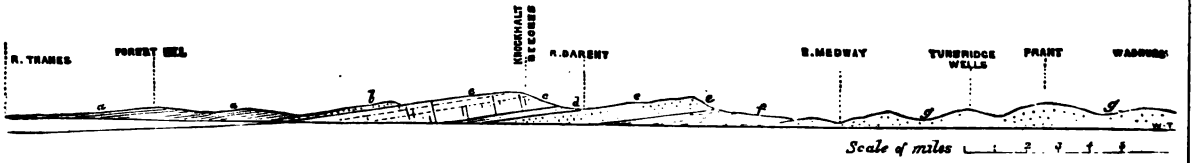
Fig. 4.—Casts of minute shell cases (magnified) of two varieties of a Water Flea (Cypridea) a crustacean, from the sandstone Strange's Quarry, Southborough. A recent Water Flea is shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.—Tooth of a Reptile (Goniopholis crassidens?).

Fig. 6.—Part of lower jaw of a smaller Reptile of the same kind. Both obtained by Mr. JAS. RICHARDSON, of Hartfield, from the sandstone at Withyham. and drawn natural size. These and other specimens can be seen at the Natural History Society Museum, 32, Pantiles.

Chalk Fossils are often found in the flint heaps placed on our country roads for repairing the highways.

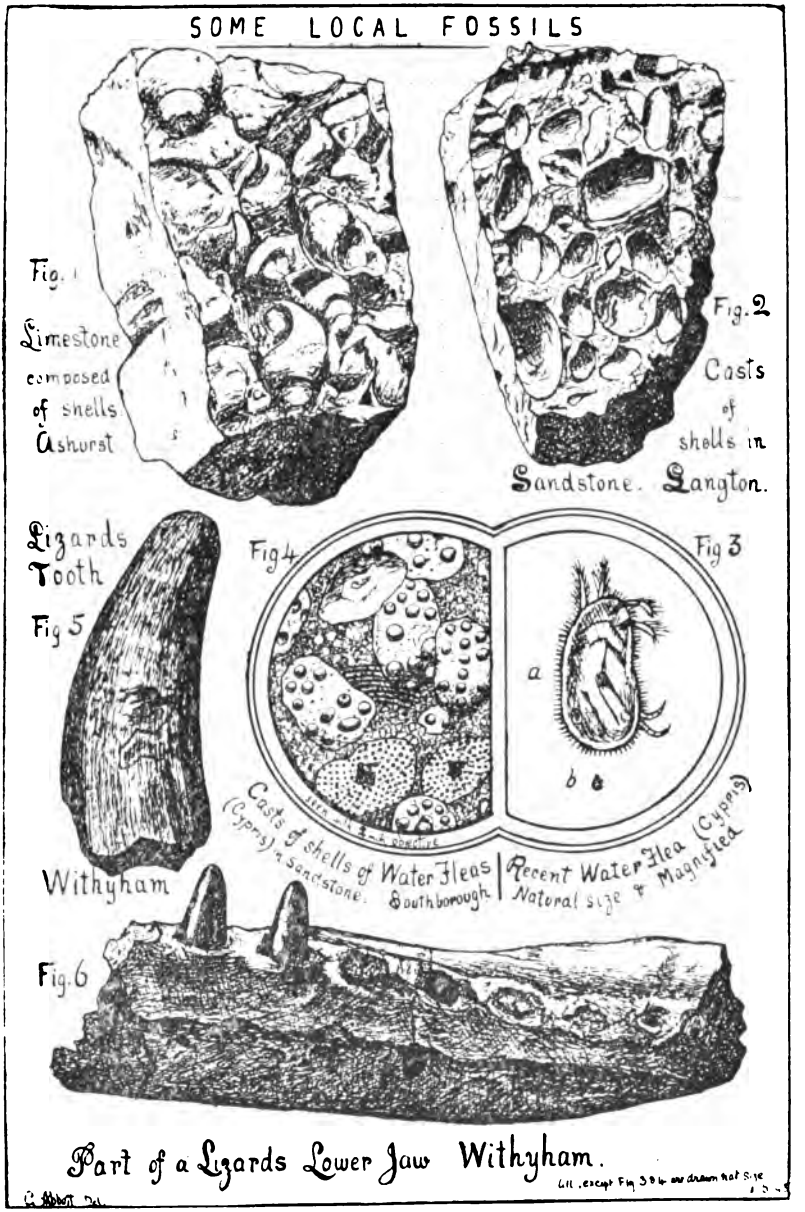
SECTION FROM LONDON TO WADHURST THROUGH TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



a. LONDON CLAY. *b.* LOWER TERTIARY BEDS. *c.* CHALK, the upper part with FLINTS. *d.* GAULT CLAY.
e. LOWER GREENSAND. *f.* WEALD CLAY. *g.* HASTINGS BEDS.

This Section is intended to illustrate the structure of the country between Tunbridge Wells and London. It is taken nearly along the line of the coach road, but will also serve to describe the direct line of railway. The central undulating country of the Weald is partly shown by the beds marked *g. g;* the sub-divisions of these rocks (Hastings Beds) could not well be shown on this scale. They "dip," or incline, as a whole northwards, to pass under the next division, or Weald Clay, and this again passes under the Greensand, and so on with the other rocks to the north. The truncated edges of the Chalk and Greensand are "escarpments." These rocks once spread far over the central country, but have been removed by "denudation." The flattening of the beds as they pass under the "London Basin" is also shown.

This Section also serves to show the underground water supply of London. Rain falls on the Chalk, percolates downwards, and so passes along the dip of the beds beneath London. Wells are sunk through the London Clay *(a)* to the Chalk, and in them the water rises, being pressed up by the weight of water at higher levels in the Chalk further off.



NOTE.—In above page for Lizards read Reptiles in both places.

TUNBRIDG

TABLE OF CAB FARE

FROM	TO S. E. Railway Station	L. B. & S. C. Station	General Post Office, Pantiles	Kentish Hotel	Calverley Hotel	Wellington Hotel	St. Barnabas Church	St. James's Church	Trinity Church	St. Mark's Church	St. Peter's Church
The S. E. Railway Station	0	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1½	1	1
The L. B. & S. C. Railway Station	1	0	½	½	1	1	1½	1½	1	1	1½	1½
General Post Office, Pantiles	½	½	0	½	1	1	1½	1½	1	1	1	1½
Kentish Hotel	½	½	½	0	1	1	1½	1	1	1	1	1
Calverley Hotel	½	1	1	1	0	1	½	½	½	1½	½	1
Wellington Hotel	1	1	1	1	1	0	1½	1½	½	1½	1½	1
St. Barnabas Church	1	1½	1½	1½	½	1½	0	½	1	2	1	1
St. James's Church	1	1½	1½	1	½	1½	½	0	1	2	1	1
Trinity Church	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	0	1½	1	1
St. Mark's Church	1½	1	1	1	1½	1½	2	2	1½	0	2	2
St. Peter's Church	1	1½	1	1	½	1½	1	1	1	2	0	1½
St. John's Church	1	1½	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	0
S. E. R. Goods Station	1	1½	1½	1½	1	1½	½	½	1	2	1	1
The Town Hall	½	1½	1	1	½	1	½	½	½	2	½	1
The Grosvenor Bridge	1	2	1½	1½	1	1½	½	½	1	2½	1½	1
Pembury Road (Boundary)	2	2½	2	2	1½	2	1½	1	2	3	1½	2
Forest Road (Cemetery)	2	1½	1½	1½	2	2	2½	2	2	1½	1½	2½
Frant Road (Boundary)	1½	1	1	1	1½	2	2	2	1½	½	2	2
Eridge Road (Boundary)	1½	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2½	2½	2	½	2	2½
Eridge Road (Railway Bridge)	1	½	1	1	1½	1	2	2	1½	1	1½	2
The Spa	1	1	1	1	1	½	1½	1½	1	2	1½	1½
Rusthall Church	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1	2	2	1½	2½	2	2
Langton Road (Boundary)	2	2	1½	1½	2	1½	2	2½	1½	2½	2½	2
Lower Green (The "Red Lion")	2½	2	2	2	2	1½	3	2½	2	3	2½	2½
The Toad Rock	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1	2	2	1½	2½	2	2
The High Rocks	2	2	2	2	2½	2	3	3	2	2½	3	2½
Bishop's Down Park (Lake)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1	1½	2	1½	2½	2	1
Skinners' Company's School	1	1½	1½	1½	1	1	1	1½	1	2½	1½	½
St. John's Road (Boundary)	2	2½	2½	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
Upper Grosvenor Road (Boundary)	1½	2½	2	2	1½	2	1	1½	1½	3	2	1½
Camden Pk. (top of Grove Hill Rd.)	½	1	1	1	1	1½	1	1	1	2	½	1½
Ferndale (Sandhurst Road)	1½	2	2	2	1½	2	1	1	1½	3	1½	2
Hungershall Park (Common end)	1	1	1	1	1½	½	2	2	1	1½	1½	1½
Bayhall Road (Hall's Hole)	1½	2	1½	1½	1	1½	1½	1	1½	2	½	1½

DESCRIPTION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES.

FIRST CLASS—Full sized Carriage drawn by one horse, to carry Five Persons exclusive of the driver.

SECOND CLASS—Basket or other Carriage drawn by one horse, to carry Four Persons exclusive of the driver.

THIRD CLASS—Small Carriage drawn by pony, mule, or ass, to carry Two Persons exclusive of the driver.

FARES FOR DISTANCE.

FIRST CLASS—Not exceeding one mile, 1s., and for every additional half-mile or less distance, 6d.

SECOND CLASS— ditto 10d.; ditto 8d.

THIRD CLASS— ditto 8d.; ditto 6d.

Half fare back shall be charged if the passenger return with the Carriage; if he do not so return, no back fare to be charged. A Carriage may be detained for ten minutes without extra charge. Luggage not exceeding 100 lbs. in weight free of charge. Distances to be reckoned from the place or Stand where the Carriage is hired.

WELLS.

STANCES IN MILES.

The Town Hall.	The Governor Bridge.	Priestley Road (Boundary).	Forest Road (Cemetery).	Frost Road (Boundary).	Bridge Road (Boundary).	Bridge Road (Railway Bridge).	The Spa.	Rutchall Church.	Leighton Road (Boundary).	Lower Green (The "Red Lion").	The Triad Bank.	The High Bank.	Bishop Down Park Lane.	Skinners Company's School.	St. John's Road (Boundary).	Upper Grosvenor Road (Boundary).	Camden Park (top of Grove Hill Road).	Portobello (Sanderrat Road).	Hungerhill Park (Cemetery Pal.	Bryhill Road, Hills Mill.
½	1	2	2	1½	1½	1	1	1½	2	2½	1½	2	1½	1	2	1½	½	1½	1	1½
½	2	2½	1½	1	1	½	1	1½	2	2	1½	2	1½	1½	2½	2½	1	2	1	2
1	1½	2	1½	1	1½	1	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1½	2½	2	1	2	1	1½
1	1½	2	1½	1	1½	1	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1½	2	2	1	2	1	1½
½	1	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1	1½	2	2	1½	2½	1½	1	2	1½	1	1½	1½	1
1	1½	2	2	2	1½	1	½	1	1½	1½	1	2	1	1	2	2	1½	2	½	1½
½	½	1½	2½	2	2½	2	1½	2	2	3	2	3	1½	1	2	1	1	1	2	1½
½	½	1	2	2	2½	2	1½	2	2½	2½	2	3	2	1½	2	1½	1	1	2	1
½	1	2	2	1½	2	1½	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1	2	1½	1	1½	1	1½
2	2½	3	1½	½	½	1	2	2½	2½	3	2½	2½	2½	2½	3	3	2	3	1½	2
½	1½	1½	1½	2	2	1½	1½	2	2½	2½	2	3	2	1½	2	2	½	1½	1½	½
1	1	2	2½	2	2½	2	1½	2	2	2½	2	2½	1	½	1	1½	1½	2	1½	1½
1	½	1½	2½	2	2½	2	1½	2	2½	2½	2	3	2	1	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
0	1	1½	2	2	2	1½	1½	2	2	2½	2	2½	1½	1	2	1½	1	1½	1½	1
1	0	1½	2½	2½	2½	2	1½	2	2½	3	2	3	1½	1	1½	1	1½	1½	2	1½
1½	1½	0	2	2½	3	2½	2½	3	3	3½	3	3½	3	2	3	2½	1½	1	2½	1
2	2½	2	0	1	2	2½	2	2½	3	3½	2½	3	3	2½	3½	3½	2	2½	2	1
2	2½	2½	1	0	1	1½	2	2½	2½	3	2½	3	2½	2½	3	3	2	3	1½	1½
2	2½	3	2	1	0	1	2	2	2½	3	2½	2	2½	2½	3½	3	2	3	1½	2½
1½	2	2½	2½	1½	1	0	1	1½	2	2½	1½	2½	2	2	3	2½	1½	2½	1	2
1½	1½	2½	2	2	2	1	0	½	1	1½	½	2	1	1½	2½	2	1½	2½	½	2
2	2	3	2½	2½	2	1½	½	0	½	1	½	1½	1½	2	3	2½	2	2½	1	2½
2	2½	3	3	2½	2½	2	1	½	0	1	1	1½	1½	2½	3	3	2½	3	1½	3
2½	3	3½	3½	3	3	2½	1½	1	1	0	1	1½	2	2½	3½	3½	2½	3½	2	3
2	2	3	2½	2½	2½	1½	½	1	1	0	1½	1½	2	3	2½	2	2½	1	2½	2½
2½	3	3½	3	3	2	2½	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	0	2½	2½	3½	3½	2½	3½	1½	3
1½	1½	3	3	2½	2½	2	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2½	0	1	2	2	2	2½	1½	2½
1	1	2	2½	2½	2½	2	1½	2	2½	2½	2	2½	1	0	1	1½	1½	2	1½	2
2	1½	3	3½	3	3½	3	2½	3	3	3½	3	3½	2	1	0	2	2½	3	2½	2½
1½	1	2½	3½	3	3	2½	2	2½	3	3½	2½	3½	2	1½	2	0	2	2	2½	2½
1	1½	1½	2	2	2	1½	1½	2	2½	2½	2	2½	2	1½	2½	2	0	1½	1½	1
1½	1½	1	2½	3	3	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	2½	3½	2½	2	3	2	1½	0	2½	2
1½	2	2½	2	1½	1½	1	½	1	1½	2	1	1½	1½	1½	2½	2½	1½	2½	0	2
1	1½	1	1	1½	2½	2	2	2½	3	3	2½	3	2½	2	2½	2½	1	2	2	0

FARES FOR TIME.

1ST CLASS.—Not exceeding one hour, 3s., and for every additional half hour or less time, 1s. 6d.
2ND CLASS.— ditto 2s., ditto 1s.
3RD CLASS.— ditto 1s. 6d., ditto 9d.

To commence from leaving the Stand or place of hire to any distance not exceeding Five Miles from the General Post Office, and if discharged beyond *Three miles* from the General Post Office, a back fare of sixpence per mile or fraction of a mile shall be charged. Every First and Second Class Carriage hired by time must be driven at the rate of not less than Five miles an hour.

The hirer must state before starting which he wishes to be driven by Time or Distance, and the driver cannot return, to enter into such arrangement, being liable to legal prosecution and of refusal. No driver on a Stand can plead previous engagement.

Any infringement of the above Regulations should be immediately reported to the Superintendent of Police, at the Town Hall, who will take proceedings against the offender.

Town Hall, Tuesday, Wells. By Order, W. C. CRIPPS, *Town Clerk*.

LIST OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

Cycle Manufacturer.
Timberlake, C., 41, High Street.

Banks.
Barclay & Co., Ye Pantiles.
Cheque Bank Company, Limited.
London and County Banking Co.

Bill Posters.
Rickwood & Sons, 49, Mount Sion.

Boarding House.
Dennis, A., 68 & 69, Mt. Ephraim.

Brewers.
Fremlin Bros., 36, Monson Road.
Kelsey, E. & H., Culverden Brewery.
Leney & Sons, 26, London Road.

Chemist.
Batting, T. G., 16, Calverley Road.

China & Glass Warehouses.
Luck, C., 4, Ye Pantiles.
Peters, P., 18 & 20, Monson Road.

Coach Builders.
Smith, G. & J., Calverley Road.

Confectioners & Bakers.
Adams, H., 5, High Street.
Carpenter, T., 8, Calverley Road.
Mules & Co., Southborough.

Dairyman.
John Brown, 34, High Street.

Drapers & Undertakers.
Goldsmith, J. W., 15 & 17, High St.
Noakes & Son, 45 & 47, High St.
Waymark, E., 2 & 4, Calverley Rd.
Weekes, R. W., Mount Pleasant.

Fire & Life Insurances.
County Fire Office.
Royal Exchange Assurance.

Fruiterer.
Ellis, E., Chapel Place & L'don Rd.

Furniture Stores, etc.
Durtnall & Co., 35, London Road.
Harris, W. G. & Co., 17 Grosvenor Rd.
Lancaster, E., Nevill Street.
Reeve & Co., 21, London Road.

Grocer & Provision Dealer.
Gain, H., 1, Grosvenor Road.

Homœopathic Hospital.

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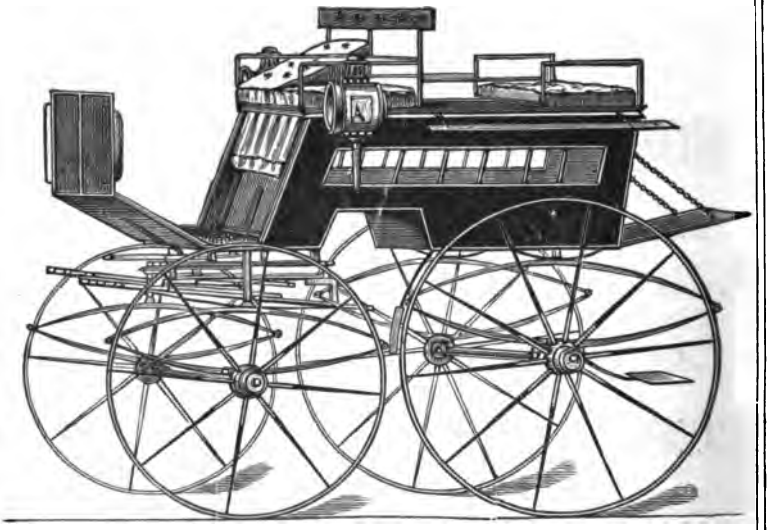
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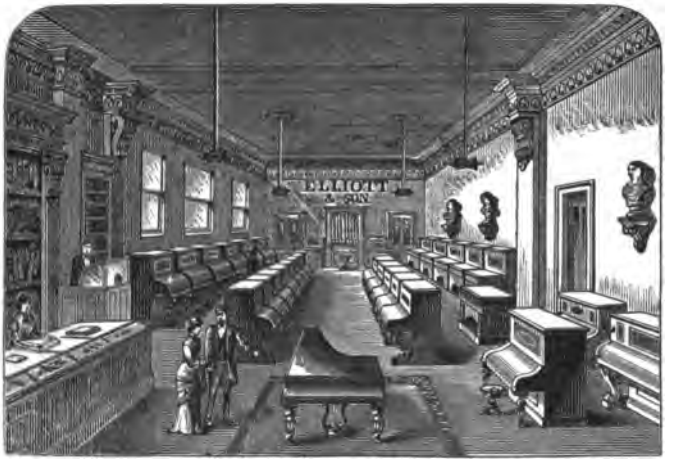
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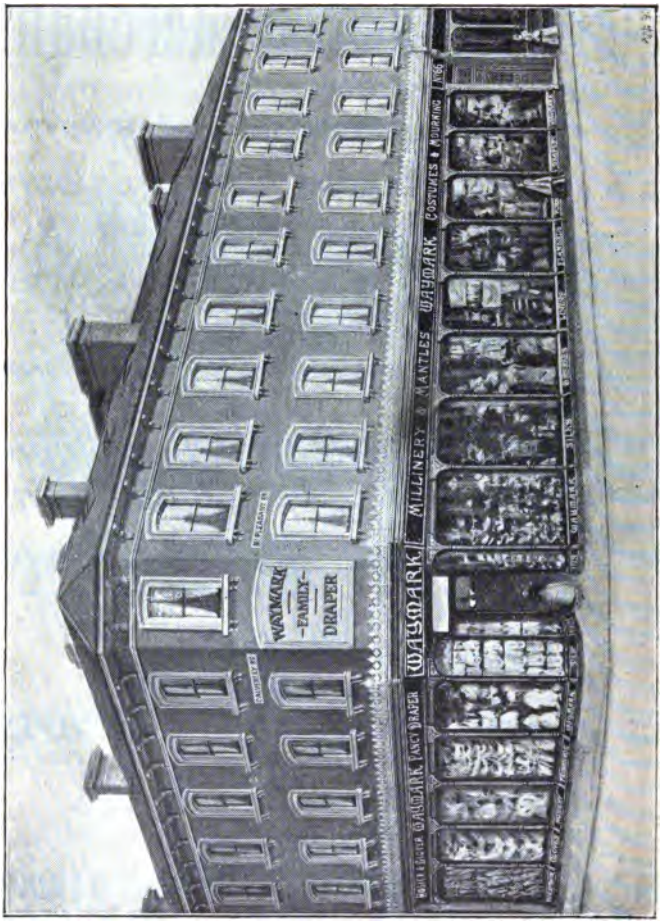
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